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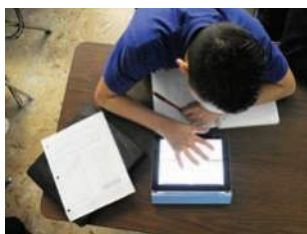
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Tribal leaders and militia commanders declared oil-rich eastern Libya a semiautonomous state.

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Man hurt after car turns turtle in Garapan collision. **PAGE 3**

3 schools remain closed today

► **Malae: Maratita's claims are non-factual**

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Three public schools on Saipan will remain closed today as they have yet to finalize their respective contingency plans, according to acting education commissioner Glenn Muña.

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RELATED NEWS

► 'Pay CUC \$800K now to stop power cuts to PSS, CHC' **PAGE 2**

CUC: No payments yet from PSS, CHC

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. failed to receive any payments yesterday from both the Public School System and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., so power will remain disconnected to some of their offices, according to CUC executive director Abe Utu Malae yesterday.

CUC started disconnecting non-critical areas of both PSS and the corporation Tuesday afternoon following the agencies' failure to pay their obligations, amounting to \$4.1 million for public schools and \$2.1 million for the healthcare corporation.

Malae told *Saipan Tribune* that CUC would like to see a payment of at least \$400,000 from each agency before they

See **CUC** on **Page 4**

► **12 school accounts, 8 at CHC disconnected**

Male tourist drowns

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

A Japanese tourist drowned at a beach near the Hyatt Regency Saipan and Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan late Tuesday afternoon.

The Department of Public Safety has yet to release information about the incident.

Sources from the Commonwealth Health Center, DPS, Fiesta Resort, and Hyatt confirmed with *Saipan Tribune*, however, that a tourist, about 60 to 65 years old, drowned in the area on Tuesday.

The victim was already dead on arrival at the hospital, sources said.

Frank Fourkan, a lifeguard and beach boy of Sakura, said that police officers came and that he did not see any medics.

Fourkan said the victim and three

See **MALE** on **Page 4**

► **Lifeguard says cops came, no medics**



Healthcare corp. payroll short by \$200K

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

As of yesterday, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is still short by some \$200,000 to fully meet its payroll tomorrow, according to chief financial and administrative of-

► **Personnel's health insurance premiums for 2 pay periods remitted**

ficer Alvaro Santos.

He confirmed, however, that the corporation paid on Monday the allotments of its personnel, including two pay periods of health premiums to insurance carriers.

See **HEALTHCARE** on **Page 4**



ACCIDENT-PRONE INTERSECTION

Police officers investigate the scene where an Isuzu Rodeo turned turtle after colliding with a Kia Sorento at the accident-prone Middle Road-Kopa Di Oru Street intersection in Garapan yesterday afternoon. The driver of the Isuzu Rodeo was injured and taken to the hospital.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

See story on **Page 3**



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Local

LAWMAKERS, FITIAL ADMINISTRATION URGED:

'Pay CUC \$800K now to stop power cuts to PSS, CHC'

» Capital Hill officials scrambling to identify source of funding

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. officials told lawmakers yesterday that an immediate payment of at least \$800,000 to pay for portions of the Public School System and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s outstanding utility bills will not only restore power but also prevent discon-

nection in some public schools and certain areas of the hospital, even as both the Senate and House let another day pass without agreeing on the fate of a line of credit bill that could help pay CUC at least \$5 million.

Despite a whole day of separate meetings yesterday, both the Fitial administration and the Legislature were unable to reprogram or identify mon-

ey to immediately pay CUC \$800,000 on behalf of PSS and CHC.

That means power will not be restored to affected schools' administrative offices and certain units of CHC.

Board of Education chair Marylou S. Ada, right after meeting with House members, said the board and PSS had been communicating with the

administration yesterday but there's still no assurance that payment to CUC is forthcoming to restore power at schools' administrative offices.

PSS and CHC have total outstanding obligations to CUC of over \$6 million. CUC spends some \$1.3 million in fuel alone every week.

CUC deputy executive director Alan Fletcher, however, confirmed that the Department of Finance issued a \$300,000 check yesterday, mostly for the central government's utility billings.

Of that \$300,000, the \$250,000 is for the central government's regular utility payments, while \$50,000 is to help settle the old balance for PSS.

"They [central government] pay us every week that's why they're not disconnected," Fletcher said.

He and CUC executive director Abe Malae met with Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and other senators yesterday morning, and again in the afternoon during a Senate session.

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), after talking to Malae, said he was also told

that if there's at least \$400,000 payment for PSS' debts, power will be restored to the affected administrative offices.

Cabrera said he was on his way to meet with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial late afternoon yesterday. Fletcher also said Malae was on his way to meet with the governor late afternoon yesterday.

The speaker said the Legislature, as he understands, need not work on a line of credit or loan bill addressing CHC because the corporation's crisis will now be taken care of by the governor's emergency declaration for the hospital.

Cabrera said the House leadership will reject today the Senate version of Rep. Ray Basa's (Cov-Saipan) bill on an \$11.58 million line of credit for CHC and PSS mainly because it is unconstitutional. Moreover, with the governor's emergency declaration for CHC, the House leadership will now be focusing on PSS.

He said the House leadership may just entertain a revised bill that only provides \$3.5 million line of credit for PSS so it can pay CUC.

The Senate version of Basa's

House Bill 17-278 would have given \$3.5 million to CUC for payment of PSS outstanding bills, and another \$1.5 million to CUC for CHC's outstanding bills.

Manglona and other senators, however, would like to find out from the Fitial administration whether the emergency declaration for CHC would already take care of CHC's financial crisis or should the Legislature still need to pursue the \$11.58 million line of credit bill for both CHC and PSS.

There was no immediate response from the administration on this, senators said.

CUC's Fletcher said there are two components of the issue: One is the immediate payment of \$800,000, and two, come up with payment agreement.

"We would get them back [on] but we need to have an agreement which we have proposed before for such payment arrangements so we can start putting the bills current and we could pay down the arrears and that's really important," he said, adding that without such payment plan, "we will be right back here in another month or another two months."

'NMI community badly needs a hospice for cancer patients'



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Joeten Charitable Foundation president Frances T. Demapan, seated second left, and board of trustee Priscilla Tenorio, seated left, present the \$5,000 check donation to 2012 Marianas March Against Cancer Committee members led by chair Catherine Attao-Toves, seated second right, Commonwealth Cancer Association board members, and staff in a ceremony at the Joeten Center in Susupe yesterday.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Joeten Charitable Foundation president Frances T. Demapan expressed hope that the Commonwealth Cancer Association will be able to put up a hospice that would aid those who are diagnosed with cancer and are undergoing treatment.

"That's something that we don't have here," said Demapan, wife of retired chief justice Miguel S. Demapan who had undergone surgeries in his battle against colon cancer. "We have a lot of patients inflicted with cancer so I think that hospice is a very specialized support group for our community."

Demapan, along with foundation board of trustee Priscilla Tenorio and executives of Joeten companies, presented yesterday a \$5,000 check donation to the 2012 Marianas March Against Cancer Committee and the Commonwealth Cancer Association board members and staff at the Joeten Center in Susupe.

Founded in 1994, the Joeten Charitable Foundation was created to promote social welfare by providing financial and in-kind assistance to organizations

whose activities benefit the greater community.

The foundation, Demapan said, has consistently extended its financial support to MMAC, the biggest annual fundraising event that unites schools, businesses, government agencies, and non-profit organizations "in a way that no other event does."

Demapan maintained that CCA, through MMAC, is different from other organizations they support as everyone has been affected by cancer in one way or another through personal experience or that of family members and friends.

"MMAC is truly a memorable event because on one hand, you're reminiscing and honoring those that lost the fight against cancer. And on the other hand, you're celebrating survivors and having fun raising money for the local community," she said.

Demapan thanked the MMAC committee for volunteering their time to help CCA in making sure that its largest fundraising event is successful year after year. "I know that without your support, this or-

ganization will not grow," she added.

MMAC committee chair Catherine Attao-Toves, for her part, said that Joeten Charitable Foundation has been supportive of the annual event, now on its 10th year.

"As we go through this milestone, Joeten once again is right there with us. We're extremely grateful and we always appreciate your support," she added.

Demapan said that this year is particularly special as Joeten Charitable Foundation is partnering with Marianas High School to form Team Joeten/MHS to be led by team captains Frannie Demapan, Joeten Department Store marketing manager/buyer, and MHS students Michelle Ngirbabul and Audrey Ada.

Demapan said they are encouraging all Joeten affiliate companies to take part in this year's MMAC, slated for April 27 to 28 at the Hopwood Jr. High School grounds. She said they will host a booth at the event and raise funds through T-shirt and luminary sales and other fundraising activities.

» Joeten Foundation donates \$5,000 to CCA

'Leadership failed students'

» Four-hour meeting between lawmakers, parents, teachers, PSS administrators

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Close to 100 public school teachers, principals, education officials, parents, and students trooped to Capital Hill yesterday afternoon not only to air their concerns about the negative impacts of not having power at school administrative offices, but also to demand solutions from the administration and lawmakers who have always promised to prioritize education every election season.

After four hours, most of the Public School System principals, teachers, other officials, and parents left the building without assurance from the Legislature that power will be restored to PSS administrative offices today or tomorrow.

Some parents and principals said the leadership—both the Executive Branch and the Legislature—"failed" the students for allowing their learning to be disrupted by power disconnections that Capital Hill officials could have prevented.

"Own up to your promises," Fausia Dela Cruz, a parent of three children attending public schools, told lawmakers.

Dela Cruz, who couldn't hold back tears as she narrated her concerns for her children's

safety and welfare, said officials always promise that education will always be priority but this has not been the case.

"I am very concerned and disappointed...because today we can't come up with a solution. We failed the students because we didn't deliver on our promises. Election is coming up. I bet many of you will promise 'education first.' Every election you promise that. Here we are today," she added.

Another parent of a public school student, Juanette Atalig, asked lawmakers: "How long will it take for you to decide [on the loan bill]? How fast can you get it passed? I don't want to leave without knowing what kind of solution you have tomorrow."

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) called for a 9am session today mainly to act on Rep. Ray Basa's (Cov-Saipan) \$11.58 million line of credit bill that the Senate substituted not only to help the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. but also PSS.

Board of Education member Herman Guerrero, BOE chair MaryLou Ada, PSS' Ed Tenorio and other education officials separately said the whole issue is partly caused by the central government's failure to remit some \$9 million owed to PSS.

"We could have avoided this [power cutoff] if we have received from the central government...This disruption is creating more problems...The disruption caused by disconnecting power to PSS...costs us \$15,000 an hour," Tenorio told lawmakers.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment, said the Fitial administration would like to see an accounting of this \$9 million that PSS is claiming to be not remitted by the central government.

"The figure may be part of the budget appropriations for the fiscal year, but like all other government agencies, the appropriations exist on the budget worksheets, however, the real problem continues to be cash flow—actual money in the bank. There's a fine line between appropriations based on projected revenue versus actual revenue, or physical cash, that actually gets generated into the general fund," Demapan said.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) at one point blamed PSS for not prioritizing utility payments to avoid disconnection of power, and his remark didn't sit well with some school principals.

Lawmakers blamed either the House or the Senate for not acting on the \$11.58 million line of credit bill immediately, regardless of whose version of

See LEADERSHIP on Page 4

Man hurt after car turns turtle in Garapan collision

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

A man was injured when the Isuzu Rodeo he was driving turned turtle in a collision with another vehicle at the accident-prone intersection of Middle Road and Kopa Di Oru Street in Garapan late afternoon yesterday.

The driver sustained bruises in different parts of his body but managed to get out from the wrecked vehicle.

Northern Islands mayor asks for \$371K budget

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

The budget request submission of the Northern Islands Mayor's Office for fiscal year 2013 includes salaries and benefits for 13 employees, including Mayor Tobias Aldan.

The document, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune*, shows that the total budget request is \$371,334. Of this amount, \$277,534 or about 75 percent will cover salaries and benefits.

Aldan explained in his Feb. 29 submission that the 13 employees are needed to carry out the mayor's duties and related mandates.

"The Northern Islands Municipality is faced with a very unique challenge in the delivery of public services in that it covers five islands under its jurisdiction, three of which are targeted for full resettlement," he added.

Aldan also requested for \$50,000 to cover transportation costs for an ocean vessel charter at a minimum of two trips per quarter, and for a helicopter or airplane "for those unforeseen critical times and emergencies."

According to Aldan, the 2013 budget request will allow them to lay out the foundation for their resettlement plans as well as other vital projects to sustain such plans.

"The resettlement plan focuses on the three islands mentioned above with future plans for economic development programs and activities on the respective islands to ensure that the settlements are safe and sustainable," he said.

Aldan said NIMO has returned some of the residents of Pagan and Alamagan and is working on rebuilding their communities.

While public funds are limited, Aldan noted that the Northern Islands are very remote that delivery of public services "may not be possible without at least quarterly transportation services from the government."

"Our government must exercise more fairness, compassion, and sensitivity in the delivery of public services and in the allocation and distribution of the limited funds and other public resources," added Aldan.

The driver of the other vehicle, a 21-year-old waiter, and his brother helped the injured driver of the Isuzu Rodeo extricate himself from the vehicle.

Medics later arrived and brought the injured motorist to the Commonwealth Health Center.

The waiter said he was with his brother on his way to work at Country House when the accident happened.

The waiter, who was driving a Kia Sorento with license plate ACB-190, said he was heading north along the inner lane of

Middle Road when the Isuzu Rodeo, with license plate ABO-675, coming from the Kopa Di Oru Street or the Gold's Gym area, suddenly crossed the highway.

The waiter's Kia Sorento struck the Isuzu Rodeo on the left side of the body. The strong

impact caused the Isuzu Rodeo to turn turtle and spin toward the southbound lanes.

The waiter's vehicle, meanwhile, stopped at the inner southbound lane.

Witnesses said that no vehicle was passing the southbound lanes.

The waiter and his brother,

together with some passersby, immediately rushed to the Isuzu Rodeo to rescue the driver.

The Isuzu Rodeo had extensive damage, while the Kia Sorento had moderate damage to the left side front bumper.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the scene, police officers were still investigating the incident.

Man allegedly lied in passport application

A Tinian man who was acquitted last year of charges that he sexually abused a girl is now facing an indictment in federal court for allegedly filing a false statement to get a new U.S. passport.

Federal agents arrested 28-year-old Geoffrey Kim Ca-

brera on Monday on Tinian after the filing of the indictment, charging him with false statement in application for U.S. passport and perjury.

The U.S. government filed the indictment on Feb. 24 but the case was only unsealed on Tuesday at the request of the

prosecution.

Cabrera appeared at the initial appearance hearing with court-appointed counsel, Robert Torres. He pleaded not guilty.

Assistant U.S. attorney Ross Naughton represented the U.S. government.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Rob-

ert C. Naraja set the trial for May 14, 2012, and allowed Cabrera's release on a \$5,000 unsecured bond.

According to the indictment, Cabrera lied in his application for a new U.S. passport when he said that his most recently issued passport had been lost. In fact, Cabrera surrendered it

to the CNMI Superior Court on Dec. 23, 2009, as a condition of his pretrial release in the 2009 criminal case.

A Superior Court jury came back in May 2011 with a not-guilty verdict against Cabrera for the charge of sexual abuse in the second degree. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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SCHOOLS

From Page 1

Administrators of Hopwood Junior High School, Koblerville Elementary School, and Tanapag Elementary School were told to continue working on their contingency plans today so classes can resume on Friday.

For the rest of public schools on Saipan, classes will resume today as scheduled.

Muña said that principals and support staff of affected schools were advised to temporarily transfer their workstations to vacant spaces in their campuses that have power.

"We needed to make sure that support services will continue to happen in classrooms and our students. School principals have tried to work out some plans, including looking at vacant rooms if they have, temporarily using their libraries and other units to facili-

tate the operation of the school. Other than that, learning will continue to happen because classrooms have power and water," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

School administrators and principals met with Muña and Board of Education members yesterday morning at the Marianas High School teachers' lounge to present their contingency plans.

Later that day, school leaders and education officials trooped to the Legislature on Capital Hill to seek help in paying for unpaid utility bills amounting to \$4.1 million. Muña admitted that nothing concrete came out of that meeting but he hopes that lawmakers will continue their efforts to help public schools.

Some public schools' administrative offices were disconnected from the power grid since Tuesday due to these unpaid bills, resulting in the shutdown of classes in all Saipan schools yesterday. Water, however, is still running and classrooms have not lost their

power supply.

Today, top officials from PSS and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. are scheduled to meet to discuss the unpaid utility obligation.

Malae defends CUC

CUC executive director Abe Utu Malae defended the utility firm yesterday against Rep. Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan), chairperson of the House Committee on Education and Welfare, who had accused CUC of "arrogance, recklessness, and irresponsibility" for disconnecting power to public schools. Maratita told Malae in a letter Tuesday that the PSS situation could have been averted if CUC had signed the memorandum of agreement relating to schools' utility arrears.

"The MOA to which you are referring was already signed by me. It is PSS that has not signed the MOU," Malae told Maratita in a letter yesterday, adding that the MOU, anyway, has

nothing to do with CUC's decision to order the disconnections.

He explained that PSS' old unpaid account has two parts: one being paid faithfully by the central government and the other by PSS, which has not been paying at all. Malae said the central government, including the Legislature, may not be disconnected because they regularly pay and are catching up

on their arrears, compared to PSS and the Commonwealth Health Corp.

Malae reiterated that only certain administrative PSS offices were disconnected and water is still running in these affected areas. The same with the public hospital's critical services, which will continue to have its power and water despite the unpaid bills of the corporation.

MALE

From Page 1

other elderly male Japanese guests had gone to the beach Tuesday afternoon. He said the three tourists just sat on the beachside while the victim went swimming.

He said that the captain of a 20-foot passenger boat coming from Managaha Island later spotted the victim floating in the water. The captain took the victim to the boat and brought him ashore.

Fourkan and three other beach boys carried the victim on a chair toward the police's vehicles parked near the shoreline.

Fourkan said there were three to four

police cars, but there was no ambulance.

He said they decided to put the victim on a pickup truck driven by a police officer.

The victim was then brought to CHC where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

"It's very frustrating. We could have applied CPR but we can't touch the body. DPS is very slow. Medics should come first and not police," the lifeguard said.

The tourist is the first drowning victim in the CNMI this year.

Last year, only one drowning victim was reported. The son of B&R Auto Shop's owner drowned while scuba diving with some friends at Lau Lau Beach in April 2011.

HEALTHCARE

From Page 1

The corporation needs about \$800,000 each payroll for about 600 employees on three islands. The cash on hand as of yesterday afternoon was about \$600,000, of which \$417,000 is the regular monthly allotment from the \$5 million seed money appropriated by the Legislature.

Santos said it is "possible but not guaranteed" that payroll will be issued to employees on time.

He said the organization's cash flow varies month to month. On average, the hospital collects about \$600,000 monthly and this increases significantly when reimbursement and claims from Medicare and Medicaid kick in, he added.

Santos hopes the daily cash flow will improve by Friday to enable them to meet payroll.

Saipan Tribune learned that allotments for CHC personnel amount to over \$200,000 each month and these include health and life insurance premiums, retirement plan, credit union, and other personal allotments of em-

ployees.

Santos believes that the corporation also remitted some partial amounts to the credit union as it is included in the "allotment" item of the financial plan. "It's not as fast as we want it to be, but we're catching up [with our obligations]."

Calvo's Insurance Underwriters Inc. general manager Eli C. Buenaventura yesterday confirmed receipt of two periods' allotment of its CHC members. The company earlier disclosed that the allotments were behind by four pay periods.

Santos said the corporation will catch up with its vendor delinquencies once funding has been identified and becomes available for CHC. He estimates the amount owed vendors at over \$2 million.

As for the housing allowance of hospital staff, which has been delayed for four months now, nothing has been paid so far. "But the CEO [Juan N. Babauta] has placed that item on his priority list once MPLT money becomes available," Santos assured.

Santos is confident that with the hospital emergency declaration, "new monies" will come in to the corporation.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Public school teachers, principals, and parents take turns sharing their concerns with lawmakers on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon on the negative impacts of disconnecting power to administrative offices. They also asked lawmakers to do everything in their power to help restore power service and prevent further disconnections.

CUC

From Page 1

restore power to the disconnected offices. Nothing was received from both agencies as of 4:30pm yesterday.

Both corporation chief financial and administrative officer Alvaro Santos and PSS acting commissioner Glenn Muña separately confirmed the non-payment yesterday.

Malae reiterated that only the administrative offices of certain public schools were disconnected from the power grid and that classrooms remain functional, with power and water supplies. He said that CUC restored power yesterday to certain accounts that have water pumps powered from the schools' administrative offices.

On Tuesday, Board of Education chair Marylou S. Ada tried to seek help from the Executive Branch officials to avert the disconnections, to no avail.

Malae said that nobody intervened with CUC or pressured him to restore power to the disconnected accounts.

"I received no pressure whatsoever. I hope PSS can rearrange their budget to make room for utilities just as the central government has done. NMC [Northern Marianas College] used to be delinquent but they have all caught up," he said.

Education officials and their supporters trooped to the Legislature yesterday to seek help from lawmakers. Deliberations were still ongoing as of 5pm. CUC officials were scheduled to separately meet with Senate leaders yesterday afternoon.

Saipan Tribune learned that CUC received a check from PSS yesterday afternoon but this was for the federally funded Head Start program.

'Disconnection completed—for now'

The disconnections at PSS and CHC are completed—for now, said Malae.

On the PSS side, 12 accounts lost their power supply, including the administrative offices of San Vicente, Koblerville, San Antonio, William S. Reyes, and Tanapag elementary schools, Marianas High School, and

Hopwood Junior High School.

For the healthcare corporation, eight accounts were cut off from the grid, including the offices of substance abuse treatment and seven accounts of the Division of Public Health, including the Diabetes Resource Center, Bureau of Environmental Health Services, Mental Health Services, and STD/HIV program. All these offices were relocated yesterday to the hospital so they could continue operating.

According to Malae, also on the disconnection list was the Medical Supply Office of CHC but this was cancelled after a request from corporation chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta to maintain the power at MSO because it contains perishable pharmaceuticals.

"These offices [on the disconnect list] are related to 'non-acute care' including most public health offices. Even though the MSO [Medical Supply Office] was on the disconnect list, CEO Babauta asked that service be maintained because it contained perishable pharmaceuticals. We agreed," Malae said.

LEADERSHIP

From Page 2

the bill it was.

Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan), the only senator in the House gallery, was the only one who accepted part of the blame.

"I'm just as guilty as everybody else because...I take part of the blame because I'm a member of the Legislature despite my personal feelings about this," he said.

House members said they did their duty by passing a budget that would allow PSS to meet its maintenance-of-efforts requirements, but it's another thing when the central government does not remit all the money to PSS.

Leila Staffler, vice principal at Kagman High School, said 75 percent of their student population rely on the free school meal program for breakfast and lunch, which they don't have in their homes.

She talked about hundreds of stu-

dents not being able to eat breakfast and lunch because classes were suspended.

PSS acting commissioner Glenn Muna said only three schools will not open today because their contingency plans have yet to be completely put together.

Boni Pangelinan, principal at San Vicente Elementary School, said with or without power, they will be able to hold classes today but elected leaders should not allow schools to go on without power at their offices.

Other principals echoed Pangelinan's sentiments, considering that students are supposed to be taught 21st century learning and not go back to the '80s and '90s when technology was not yet so much part of learning.

After four long hours, school officials said they and lawmakers could go on forever discussing the issue but what matters is lawmakers' concrete solution to ensuring CUC gets paid so it can restore power not only to PSS but also to the hospital.

Public health programs relocated due to loss of power

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Clinics and offices under the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Division of Public Health and the Community Guidance Center were immediately relocated yesterday morning from their Upper Navy Hill site to available spaces at the Commonwealth Health Center due to unexpected disconnection of their power and water supplies.

Bill wants to transfer appointment authority for CPUC commissioners

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) will introduce today a bill that will strip the governor of power to appoint commissioners to the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission and give it to the three legislative delegations.

Torres, in House Bill 17-287, said the governor's office has not been consistent and timely in appointing CPUC commissioners. The law requires CPUC to have five commissioners, but currently has only one.

"The regulatory functions and powers of the CPUC is extremely important to the daily operations of the utilities and telecommunications agencies and businesses in the Commonwealth, and any delays in its being able to properly function as a commission should be immediately addressed by the Legislature," Torres said.

Under HB 17-287, the governor will no longer appoint CPUC commissioners. Instead, that authority will go to the Saipan and Northern Is-

Public Health Services director Roxanne Diaz, along with her staff, were seen setting up their "new offices" in various areas of the hospital when visited yesterday morning.

Diaz said they immediately issued yesterday a public announcement about the transfer of their services to minimize, if not avert, any impact on patients.

Starting yesterday, the HIV/STD resource and treatment center is now at the Family Care

lands Legislative Delegation, the Rota Legislative Delegation, and the Tinian Legislative Delegation, with the confirmation of both the Senate and House.

Torres' bill requires the Saipan delegation to appoint three members from Saipan, the Rota delegation to appoint one from Rota, and the Tinian delegation one from Tinian.

Torres pre-filed HB 17-287 a few days after he signed on as co-author of Rep. Janet Maratita's (Ind-Saipan) bill that give lawmakers the authority to set not only residential power and water rates but also reconnection fees.

Maratita and Torres' HB 17-283 removes "any and all authority" of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and CPUC to set utility residential rates and reconnection fees and transfer those functions to the Legislature.

Maratita said CUC and CPUC can still recommend rates, but the final decision will rest with lawmakers. HB 17-283 will also be formally introduced in today's House session.

Clinic in the new dialysis center.

Bureau of Environmental Health staffer Lily Kapileo was seen accommodating clients at the window of the hospital's dental clinic.

Diaz said the bureau's sanitary permits and food handler certificates will temporarily hold office in the dental clinic while the food handlers training will be done at the CHC cafeteria. The cafeteria has been closed since October last year as part of cost-cutting measures.

Four offices and clinics of the Community Guidance Center were also transferred to the hospital. The center's addiction services is now at the old Family Care Clinic, located next to the laboratory of

the main hospital. Yesterday's scheduled group counseling was done at the N5 Building on Upper Navy Hill. All other sessions will be held at the hospital cafeteria.

The center's Victims Services and all outpatient Behavioral Health Clinical Services were transferred to the Transitional Living Center while the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program is temporarily housed at the public health administration office across the gift shop, along with the center's administrative office.

Diaz, who described the disconnection and relocation as sudden, told *Saipan Tribune* that no services were stopped or affected because their staff immediately acted.

"As soon as we found out that we're disconnected, we immediately responded and quickly identified all the different sites to make sure that services will not be affected and will continue because our priority is the people we're serving," she said.

She could not say when power will be restored to the affected offices.

"The upside of this [situation], we tested the system out and how fast people responded...and I have to commend our staff for responding accordingly," she said.

According to Diaz, the corporation—as a way to save on costs—had actually already decided to transfer some public health offices to the CHC.

Yesterday's relocation, she said, was just a little sooner than scheduled.

Of all the services being run on Upper Navy Hill, Diaz said that the HIV office and the Bureau of Environmental Health will most likely be retained there, while the rest will be transferred to new sites.

"We're still assessing options, but most likely HIV and BEH will go back [to Upper Navy Hill]," she said.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. started disconnecting various non-critical offices of both the Public School System and the healthcare corporation due to nonpayment of their bills, amounting to \$4.1 million for PSS and \$2.1 million for CHC.

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Investigator sought to prepare for immigration fraud trial

Court-appointed counsel Colin M. Thompson has asked the federal court to allow him to hire a private investigator that will help him prepare for the trial of a client who is facing an immigration fraud case.

In his declaration filed Tuesday in the U.S. District Court for the NMI, Thompson said that an investigator is necessary so he could provide effective assistance to his client, Li Wen Tang, who was charged with

immigration document fraud on Sept. 22, 2011.

He said the U.S. government has identified several fact witnesses, but that these witnesses are adverse to Tang's defense. Thompson said he needs to in-

terview the witnesses in order to adequately prepare for trial. He said there may be other evidence that an investigator could develop.

Tang, Thompson said, would pay for an investigator if she

were not indigent.

According to the indictment, Tang lied in her application for permanent residence or status adjustment when she stated in papers submitted to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

that her only child was a daughter born in 2006, when in fact she gave birth in April 2002 on Saipan to a son whose biological father was listed on the child's 2002 birth certificate as Abdullah al Mamun. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

TSL Foundation donates to arts festival efforts

By CLARISSA V. DAVID

clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Another organization has stepped up to the plate for the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture as it gears up for the 31st Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival next month.

Tan Siu Lin Foundation has donated print advertisements that will help publicize the event as well as five hotel stay gift certificates at Fiesta Resort & Spa and the Saipan Grand Hotel that will be used as prizes for the raffle draw that will be held during the festival on April 20 to 22 at the Civic Center Park in Susupe.

Tan Holdings corporate consultant David M. Sablan presented the donation amounting to about \$1,700 to the 31st Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival committee members last week.

The donation makes Tan Siu Lin Foundation an "Isle" sponsor, a sponsorship level bestowed on companies, organizations, or individuals that provide monetary or in-kind sponsorship from \$1,000 to \$2,000.

Foundation president Jerry Tan said they understand and appreciate the hard work exerted by the Arts Council and the festival committee in coming up with a "wonderful" event for the public "at a



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Tan Holdings corporate consultant David M. Sablan, second left, hands the donation of Tan Siu Lin Foundation to 31st Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival overall committee chair Parker Y. Yobei, second right, in a brief ceremony last week. Joining them are committee members Maria Castro and Darrell Moteisou.

time when all of us are affected by the economic downturn in the islands."

"This donation is our little token of support," said Tan. "We look forward to the 31st Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival next month."

Festival overall committee chair Parker Y. Yobei said that it's companies and groups like Tan Siu Lin Foundation "that allow us to promote our tal-

ented artists who deserve nothing but recognition for their outstanding works of art that uphold our rich art and cultural heritage in the CNMI."

Founded in 2002, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Tan Holdings Corp., the parent company of *Saipan Tribune*. It is named after founder and chairman Dr. Tan Siu Lin.

The Flame Tree Arts Festival

is the biggest annual festival celebrating the rich art and cultural heritage of the Commonwealth and takes place usually in late April in time for the blossoming of flame tree flowers after which the event was named. This year marks the 31st anniversary of the event.

For more information, visit the Arts Council office next to the post office in Capital Hill or call 322-9982 or 83.

There's still time to form a team for 2012 MMAC

By CLARISSA V. DAVID

clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It's never too late to form a team for the upcoming Marianas March Against Cancer, according to overall event committee chair Catherine Attao-Toves.

Attao-Toves and committee vice chair Manny Borja were the guest speakers at the Rotary Club of Saipan general membership meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan on Tuesday.

Attao-Toves, who was still a teacher at Hopwood Jr. High School the first time she volunteered for MMAC, told Rotarians that the event committee then allowed her and several

others to form a team and sign up a week before the event.

"We may not have the best tent or the most money raised," she said. "However, it was all about participating in this event."

To date, Attao-Toves said they already have 13 confirmed teams taking part in the MMAC event slated for April 27 to 28 at the Hopwood Jr. High School field.

The event features teams representing families, businesses, schools, and other organizations that run or walk around the course over a 12-hour relay period, lighting luminaries to celebrate cancer survivors and to remember those who have lost the fight against the disease.

This year marks the 10th year of MMAC, the largest signature

fundraising event of the Commonwealth Cancer Association.

Attao-Toves revealed that she has been an MMAC volunteer for six years "to help make a difference in the community" after a cancer-scare episode.

Borja said there are several ways to get involved with MMAC, and forming a team is just one of them. There is a \$300 fee for each participating family, non-profit group,

or school team and \$500 for each corporate team.

Other ways to help are through individual or business sponsorships and by purchasing luminaries at \$5 each, added Borja.

Attao-Toves maintained that everyone in the community knows a family member or a friend who has been diagnosed with cancer. "Cancer patients need hope and encouragement, support and love. Cancer patients want to fight their illness and it is up to us to be of help to them and become their source of strength," she said.

Attao-Toves said all MMAC proceeds will be turned over to CCA to sustain their various programs and activities.

"We hope to see you come together as we go in this journey as one community in battling cancer," she added.

To sign up as a team or for more information, call Attao-Toves at 285-1828 or Borja at 989-1987.



Attao-Toves

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP12-OHS-048**

SUBMISSION: MARCH 28, 2012 • TIME: 3:00 P.M.

"PURCHASE, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF COMMUNICATIONS RESOURCES FOR THE CNMI OPERATIONS CENTER AND THE CNMI DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. CARL DELA CRUZ, OHS PROCUREMENT OFFICER BY E-MAIL TO ohs.delacruz@gmail.com NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, MARCH 15, 2012.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT

/s/ MARVIN K. SEMAN
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR HOMELAND SECURITY

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

NESS ANN GALICIA TUMAQUIP
P.O. Box 7652 SVRB
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PRO SE

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
THE COMMONWEALTH OF
THE NORTHERN MARIANA
ISLANDS**

In the Matter of	FCD CN
the Petition for	CIVIL
the Change of	ACTION
Name of:	NO.
NESS ANN	12-0078
GALICIA	
TUMAQUIP	NOTICE OF
Petitioner.	HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on March 29, 2012, at 9:30am in Courtroom 217A, before Associate Judge Perry B. Inos.

Dated this 27th day of February, 2012.

BERNADITA SABLAN
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

ADAM MICHAEL CRUZ
JANELLA M. CRUZ
P.O. Box 501736
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone No.: 233-0715

PRO SE

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS**

IN THE MATTER OF	FCD-AD
ADOPTION OF:	CIVIL
JOSEPH JOHN MUNA	ACTION
ALDAN, And JEROME	NO.
JUDE MUNA ALDAN,	12 - 0120
Minor Children,	
by	NOTICE
ADAM MICHAEL CRUZ	OF
and JANELLA MUNA CRUZ,	HEARING
Petitioners	

Notice is hereby given that a verified petition was filed in the above-entitled court for a Petition for Adoption of the minor children, JOSEPH JOHN MUNA ALDAN and JEROME JUDE MUNA ALDAN, by ADAM MICHAEL CRUZ and JANELLA MUNA CRUZ, Petitioners. The original petition is available for review at the Office of the Clerk of Court at Guma' Hustisia, Imwal Aweewe, House of Justice, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A hearing of this matter is set for April 2, 2012 at 1:30 P.M., at the Commonwealth Superior Courtroom No. 217A, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Any person who has any objection to this petition may file such objection with the Superior Court at any time before the hearing or may appear at the time set for hearing to present such objection or interest in this matter.

Dated this 6th day of March, 2012

Clerk of Court:

/s/ Deputy Clerk

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Micronesian Biosecurity Plan meeting

In preparation for the military buildup on Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Department of Defense has taken an unprecedented step of funding a proactive effort to evaluate the risks to Micronesia that are associated with the introduction and/or spread of potentially invasive species and to make recommendations as to how these risks can best be eliminated or minimized through the creation of a Micronesia Biosecurity Plan.

As part of a cooperative agreement with the Department of the Navy, the University of Guam is taking the lead in organizing a team of scientists and managers specializing in biosecurity and/or natural resource management in the Pacific region to contribute to a peer review of the draft MBP sections and develop a Strategic Implementation Plan to support the MBP. This inaugural meeting will be held at the Governor of Guam's upper conference room at the Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex, Hagåtña Guam, on March 12, 2012, starting at 10:30am. (*PR*)

KHS progress reports out today

The progress reports for Kagman High School that was scheduled for release yesterday has been postponed to today, Thursday, Mar. 8, from 3:30pm to 5:30pm. For more information, call the KHS office at 237-3840. (*PR*)

MHS landline during outages

Marianas High School landline to call during power outages is 664-3801 or fax 664-3805. (*PR*)

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the **Special Meeting of the Board is scheduled on Friday, March 9, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan.** The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Adoption of Agenda
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- III. GARAPAN ANNEX RFP
- IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- V. OTHER MATTERS
- VI. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

MARCIE M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman of the Board

WESPAC ends Saipan meeting with no action on recommendations

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council wrapped up the second and last day of its 153rd Council meeting session on Saipan on Tuesday without taking any action on its recommendations regarding fishing regulations for the three marine national monuments in the region, among other important things.

Council members were joined by National Marine Fisheries Service acting administrator Sam Rauch and met with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial who just arrived from a three-week meeting in the U.S. mainland.

The council, which is responsible for drafting fishing regulations in the Rose Atoll, Marianas Trench, and Pacific Remote Islands marine national monuments, said in a statement that it was able to listen

to presentations and public comments for the Marianas Trench marine monument during its stay on island.

It said that assurances from the Bush administration, particularly by Council on Environmental Quality chair James Conaughton, "are not being honored." Senior policy adviser John Joyner and CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary and council member Arnold Palacios maintain that the Commonwealth was informed that it would have management authority, rights to access, and be allowed traditional indigenous fishing in the Marianas Trench monument.

"Joyner and Palacios postulate that these promises are not being honored due to the fact that they were not included in the presidential proclamation that created the monument. CNMI residents compared this to the U.S. taking of the ma-

rine waters around the CNMI because "waters" was not specifically mentioned in the Covenant between the then sovereign Northern Mariana Islands and the [U.S.]," the council added.

Council executive director Kitty Simonds, in an interview on Monday, also pointed out that one consideration in these marine monument talks is the advice of the federal government on capping the expenses for their "customer exchange" system, which refers to having the subsistence fishing catches exchanged for other products such as fuel to cover expenses for the fishing trip.

But Simonds said a survey conducted by the National Fisheries Resource Center showed that those who are fishing in the monument area are not doing it to make money. "As it turns out, most of the motivation is people fish because they want to fish," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

PIC celebrates International Women's Day for Russian guests

Following the great experience of celebrating and hosting two big events—the Orthodox Christmas and New Year—PIC continues to pamper its Russian guests this year. As the leading hotel in the CNMI to welcome travelers from Russia, PIC begins the spring season with another important event to celebrate.

Today, March 8, is known as International Women's Day, dur-

ing which all women in Russia will receive greetings, special attention, and various gifts as a way of appreciation from their fathers, brothers, husbands, male friends, and co-workers.

PIC supports this wonderful tradition and will surprise its Russian female guests with amazing gifts and events. On that day, over 45 Russian women will enjoy fresh roses and champagne from the hotel and

a special luxury perfume, courtesy of DFS Galleria Saipan.

PIC won't forget the younger girls; they will receive refreshing drinks at all PIC outlets and teddy-bears.

In the evening, PIC's Seaside Grill restaurant will indulge the special guests with a mouthwatering dinner menu.

Happy Women's Day to all women, with warmest greetings from PIC Saipan! **(PR)**

Citing the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Simonds assured that recommendations not just from the scientists but also from the local communities will be taken into account in their decision-making process.

When it reconvenes on March 8 and 9 at the Hilton Guam Resort and Spa, the council is expected to discuss the annual catch limits or ACLs for the Marianas archipelago,

which covers both the CNMI and Guam.

All federally managed fish are required to have ACLs by 2012 but the lack of catch data and life history information of fish species have made the 2012 ACLs for the Marianas fisheries "artificially low," which may harm fishing communities, according to the council.

The council is also looking at helping the CNMI develop its aquaculture industry and the

possibility of easing the measures restricting vessels greater than 40 feet in length from fishing for bottomfish in waters from 0 to 50 miles from shore around the southern islands.

Issues on sharks and military activities affecting fishing communities in the Marianas will also be part of the council's agenda during its meeting in Guam.

For more information, visit www.wpcouncil.org, email info.wpcouncil@noaa.gov or call (808) 522-8220, (671) 287-9482 or (670) 688-6400.

DURING RED CROSS MONTH

Help people in need by supporting Red Cross

This month, the American Red Cross is asking everyone to help people in need by supporting the lifesaving services it provides.

"Please remember those who need our help and support the Red Cross by making a donation, becoming a volunteer or taking a class" said John Hirsh, executive director of the NMI Chapter. "We want to thank everyone for their generosity, which has enabled us to help our people here in the Commonwealth, across the United States, and around the world."

March is Red Cross Month, first proclaimed in 1943 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Since that time, every president, including President Obama, has designated March as Red Cross Month. The American Red Cross is synonymous with helping people, and has been doing

so for more than 130 years.

The Red Cross responds to nearly 70,000 disasters a year, providing shelter, food, emotional support, and other necessities to those affected. It provides 24-hour support to members of the military, veterans, and their families—in war zones, military hospitals and on military installations around the world; collects and distributes more than 40 percent of the nation's blood supply and trains more than 9 million people in first aid, water safety and other life-saving skills every year.

Here in the Commonwealth, the NMI Chapter responded to more than a dozen local emergencies in recent months, assisted nearly 100 military families, and trained thousands of people in lifesaving skills.

"Red Cross Month is a great time for people to support our mission," Hirsh said. "Their kindness will enable us to continue our humanitarian work, both here at home and across the globe."

The Red Cross is not a government agency and relies on donations of time, money, and blood to do its work. An average of 91 cents of every dollar given to the Red Cross is invested in helping the people the Red Cross serves.

The NMI Chapter has a number of activities planned for Red Cross Month, including a super CPR Saturday, disaster preparedness training, and the 26th annual Walkathon. For more information about the NMI Chapter and how you can get involved, call the office at 234-3459. **(ARC)**



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Statewide Independent Living Council "Yes I Can!"

P.O. BOX 506296, SAIPAN, MP 95950: TEL: (670) 322-6537/8 FAX: (670) 322-6536
TTY: (670) 322-6449; E-MAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2012 Second General Membership Meeting on Thursday, March 08, 2012 at the Chamolinian Room, Hyatt Regency from 9:00am-2:00pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- I. Roll Call
- II. Adoption of Agenda
- III. Review and adoption of December 06, 2011 Minutes
- IV. Reports
 - CIL Director
 - OVR Director
 - Chairman
- V. Old Business
 - SPIL Public Forums on Saipan, Rota & Tinian
 - SILC By-Laws/Membership Composition
 - Accessible Transportation Issues
- VI. New Business
 - SILC Resource Plan
 - Recommendation for CIL activities
- VII. Consumer Forum
- VIII. Announcements/Miscellaneous
- IX. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537(voice) or 322-6449(TTY). Please contact Elvira Seman (Council Liaison) two days in advance for necessary arrangements.

/s/ Stephen Dutro
SILC Chairperson

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by the United States Department of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

31st Year Anniversary Special

March Lent Season Lunch Bento Special

Lunch
11:00am - 3:00pm

\$5.00
only

Monday

Shrimp Tempura,
Spicy Squid,
Salad, Coco,
Rice, Ramen

Tuesday

Grilled Saba,
Vegetable Lumpia,
Salad, Coco,
Rice, Ramen

Wednesday

Shrimp Tempura,
Tuna, and
Tofu Burger, Salad,
Coco, Rice, Ramen

Thursday

Fried Squid,
Seafood BBQ,
Salad, Coco,
Rice, Ramen

Friday

Shrimp Tempura,
Grilled Sanma,
Salad, Coco,
Rice, Ramen

Saturday/Sunday

Seafood
Fried Rice
and Ramen

Dinner Special

\$9.00

6:00pm - 10:00pm • Mon to Sun

With Oshinko, Rice and Miso Soup

Choices of:

- A. Mahi-Mahi sautéed in butter
- B. Fried (breaded) Mahi-Mahi



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NMC instructor publishes 2nd book translation

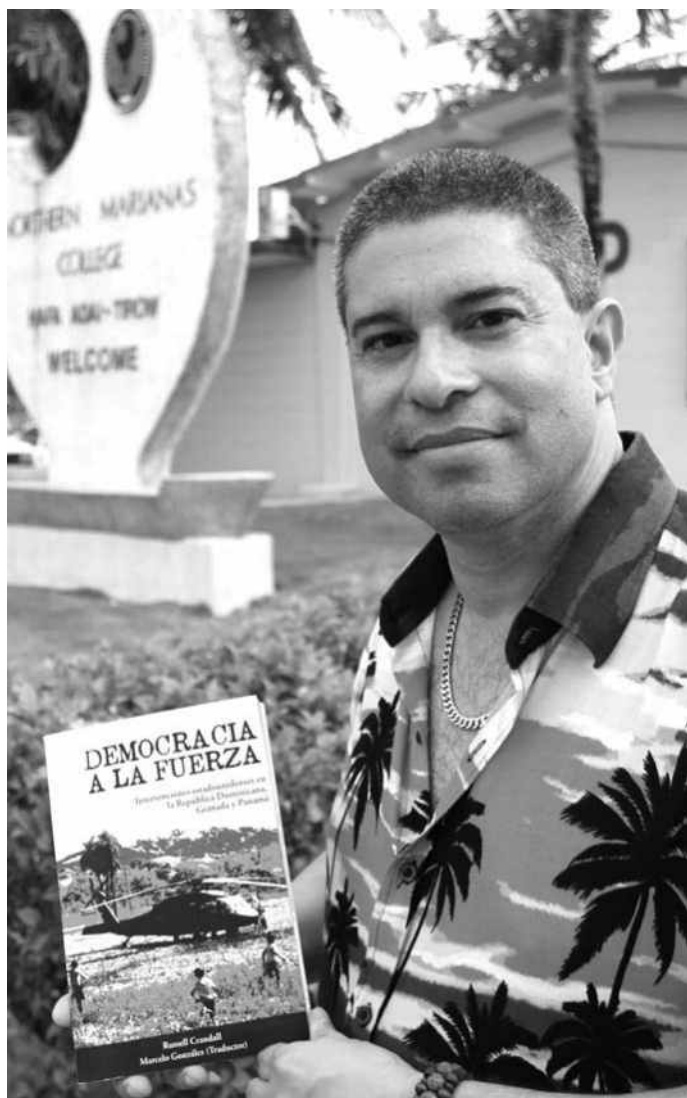
A full-time faculty member of Northern Marianas College, Marcelo González, has recently published his second book translation, the Spanish edition of *Gunboat Democracy: US interventions in the Dominican Republic, Grenada and Panama* (2006).

Published in December as *Democracia a la Fuerza. Intervenciones Estadounidenses en la República Dominicana, Granada y Panamá* by Spain's Editorial Manuscritos, the book provides an in-depth analysis of these three interventions in the context of regime-change and nation building in Central America and the Caribbean.

According to González, "The importance of this translation for its target market in Spain and Latin America is that it provides, as Dr. Robert Synder of Southwestern University has pointed out, a convincing counter argument to the notion that U.S. military interventions are always motivated by less than virtuous reasons, and that they always leave the countries in question in worse condition in terms of their democratic institutions."

"In short, I translated it to provide Spanish-language readers around the world with a well-researched, balanced perspective from a widely published and well-respected U.S. political scientist," González added.

González is an English and Spanish instructor in NMC's Department of Languages &



NMC Northern Marianas College instructor Marcelo González holds up a copy of his book translation, *Democracia a la fuerza. Intervenciones estadounidenses en la República Dominicana, Granada y Panamá*.

Humanities, as well as a certified translator. Before joining NMC, González taught English in several Spanish-speaking countries, including Spain,

Chile, Puerto Rico, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic. He holds a master's degree from the Graduate School of Translation, Interpretation & Language Edu-

cation of the Monterey Institute of International Studies. His previous book translation was *The Development of Literary Blackness in the Dominican Republic* published by South America's Editorial Abya-Yala as *Negritud literaria en la República Dominicana*. The author, Dr. Russell Crandall, is a fellow at the Center for American Progress and an associate professor of Political Science at Davidson College. The author of several books on U.S. policy in Latin America, including *The United States and Latin America after the Cold War* (published by Cambridge University Press), Dr. Crandall has served as an advisor in the administrations of presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama, and recently completed a term as director for the Western Hemisphere at the National Security Council.

Named one of the best books of 2007 by the journal *Foreign Affairs*, the original English edition is available on Amazon, as will the Spanish edition very shortly. The Spanish edition is also available on the publisher's website: www.EditorialManuscritos.com. For more information, including side-by-side English-Spanish excerpts and links to external sites, visit Marcelo González's profile at www.proz.com/profile/103641 (and click on Portfolio) or email him directly at MarceloG@nmcnet.edu. (NMC)

Register today for pesticide applicator certification, exam

The Division of Environmental Quality will administer the pesticide applicator examination on Monday, March 12, 2012, at 9am.

Individuals wanting to become certified pesticide applicators must pass a written examination. Each exam is a written, closed-book examination consisting of 70 multiple-choice questions. Each candidate has up to two hours to complete the exam. The minimum passing score is 70 percent.

Examination includes but is not limited to: labeling; safety factors; environmental con-

sequences; pest identification and characteristics; pesticide types, formulations and dilutions; equipment maintenance and calibration; proper storage, use, and disposal of pesticides and containers; pesticide application techniques; pesticide laws and regulations; recordkeeping; worker protection standards; and other relevant information as deemed necessary, including but not limited to new developments and other pertinent matters.

Exam categories are: Commercial Agriculture, Commercial Resort (Ornamental & Turf), Commercial Institutional

(structural, health) and Private Agricultural. Candidates must register at least three working days prior to the scheduled examination. Candidates who submit incomplete registration forms will not be allowed to take the exam. Registration forms are available online at <http://www.deq.gov.mp/article.aspx?secID=7&artID=175>

Who should register for the exam? Any person that uses insect or pest control products on plants, vegetables, fruits, or flowers; applies a weed-and-feed product to a client's lawn or spray for insects; uses insect

or pest control products for the maintenance of resort grounds, golf courses, or greenhouses; applies pesticides to someone else's property; applies, purchases or distributes Restricted Use Pesticides; or applies pesticides in residences, schools or public places must obtain certification to apply pesticides.

Exams are held on the second Monday of each month. For more information about the certification and exam requirements, contact Reina Camacho at 664-8512 or send an email to reinacamacho@deq.gov.mp. (DEQ)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy 21st birthday, Edbhy Sampang! May God bless you and continue to guide you on your journey throughout the years. Love always, your family and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 3rd birthday to Naomi Matsumoto, left, who is celebrating her special day today, March 8, 2012, and advanced happy 4th birthday to Ayanna Matsumoto, right, who will celebrate her special day on March 12, 2012. Wishing the both of you another wonderful year of happiness and joy. God bless! Greetings come from your family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday, Zach, and may you have many more birthdays to come! We hope you will enjoy your day and may God bless you. Love always, from Mommy, Daddy, Jimboy, Kiana, and Tyler.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 20th birthday to Monishia Marie Lizama Santos! We want to wish a happy birthday and we hope you have a nice day. We love you so much! Greetings come from Mommy, Daddy, CraiMar Calvo, StanChelle, Kika, Sus, Shawn, Esper, Sj, Riri, and from Ma-MoPrEs.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Mar. 8, 1999

Governor signs bill on limit to residency

A controversial legislation seeking to limit to three consecutive years the maximum allowable period for nonresidents to work in the Northern Marianas was signed into law by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio despite strong opposition from businessmen. The new measure, designed to curb influx of alien workers and reduce the island economy's dependence on foreign labor, mandates all guest workers to exit the Commonwealth periodically before they will be allowed to seek re-employment, a provision employers described as impractical, costly and a bane to business. Under Public Law 11-69, nonresident employees must leave the islands at the end of a three-year employment and stay outside the CNMI for a period of not less than six months.

Governor reviews costs on PR drive

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has said he will review proposals seeking a cosharing of the cost of tapping the services of a public relations company to defend the Northern Marianas against growing media criticisms overseas. Lack of funds has tied the hands of the administration to retain prestigious law firm Preston Gates Rouvellas & Meads as its lobbyist in Washington. The Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce as well as some key members of the Legislature have separately called on the government to hire a PR company in order to help refurbish the image of the Commonwealth tarnished by negative publicities.

Mar. 8, 2000

Reyes lobbies for approval of 80MW project

Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes yesterday vowed to press approval of a bill restoring the mothballed 80-megawatt power plant on Saipan despite protests from some of the top bidders on the controversial project. If Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio vetoes the measure, he said he would drum up enough votes to override his rejection in order to push the much delayed project which has been pending for the last three years. Two leading bidders -- the Tomen Consortium and the Saipan Power Partners/Hawaii Electric Inc. -- have asked the governor to veto Senate Bill 12-19 due to a provision they said will eliminate competition and practically award the \$120 million contract to top competitor Enron.

Bankruptcy filings drop 8.5% in 1999

The total number of bankruptcies filed during the 1999 calendar year totaled 1,319,463, a decrease of 8.5 percent from the previous calendar year, when filings totaled 1,442,549, according to data released by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. The total number of filings for the fourth quarter of 1999 was 318,634, down 1.5 percent from the third quarter of 1999 and down nearly 10 percent from the same period a year earlier. The number of new filings in 1999 was the first year in the last four not to set a new national record for bankruptcies.

Mar. 8, 2002

Program eyed to curb growing delinquency

The Commonwealth Development Authority is eyeing the institution of a program that would help curb the increasing volume of delinquent borrowers in light of worsening economic condition on the island. CDA corporate division officials will sit down today to discuss possible ways to assist borrowers cope with their financial obligation amid hard economic times. The government's major lending arm has been swamped with concerns on the increasing delinquency rate, as well as requests from borrowers for loan restructuring to allow them more time to settle their credit. Borrowers have also started seeking advice from the development authority on how they can continue to pay their dues on time without sacrificing other basic necessities.

Only commercial shipment of RP mangoes allowed: USDA

The U.S. Department of Agriculture yesterday stressed that personal shipment of mangoes from the Philippines to the Northern Marianas and other American states and territories remains restricted to prevent the entry of pests such as the Oriental Fruit Fly. USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services and Quarantine Director Mitchell Nelson said only commercial shipments of Philippine mangoes are allowed at this point. However, this should also undergo pre-clearance processes before the mangoes are allowed entry into the U.S. and the CNMI.

OES Learning Garden

PHOTOS BY CLARISSA V. DAVID



Acting Education Commissioner Glenn Muna and Oleai Elementary School third graders hold eggplant saplings as they wait for the start of their planting activity.



A student plants a corn seed as Tan Holdings executive David M. Sablan and Natural Resource Management major Tom Pangelinan look on.



A staffer from the Northern Marianas College - Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service hands out corn seeds to students under the class of teacher Roxie Lamar.



Tan Holdings vice president for finance Lina Dimaano, who is also a board member of Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, helps a student put on gloves.



Tan Holdings corporate consultant David M. Sablan assists a student plant a corn seed.



OES student Yvonne Mallari puts soil around her tomato sapling as another student waits for her turn.



Tan Holdings executives sit with Oleai Elementary School students during Wednesday's event.



First grade teacher Ernestina Agulto and an NMC-CREES staff demonstrate how to remove the eggplant saplings from their temporary pots.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Obama to Iran: Stop, or else

When Spanish conquistador Hernando Cortez landed in Mexico in 1519 intent on conquest, legend has it that he burned his boats to foreclose the option of retreat. In the past few days, contemplating Iran's nuclear program, Barack Obama has been doing something similar.

Last week, the president told an interviewer that "when the United States says it is unacceptable for Iran to have a nuclear weapon, we mean what we say." He stipulated that military options are on the table. On the need to prevent an Iranian nuclear arsenal, he stressed, "I'm not saying this is something we'd like to solve. I'm saying this is something we have to solve."

In his speech Sunday before the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the president was equally definitive. "I do not have a policy of containment," he avowed. "I have a policy to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon." He went on to say, "I will not hesitate to use force when it is necessary to defend the United States and its interests."

On Monday the president said he hopes economic sanctions against Iran, coupled with diplomacy, will resolve the situation. But in welcoming Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to the White House, Obama re-emphasized his Sunday remarks by stating that "the United States will always have Israel's back."

Obama has made statements like these in the past, but he has never been so conspicuously uncompromising and categorical. Before, it was possible to surmise that Obama was not truly serious about the military option—that he would use every means short of bombers and missiles to stop the Iranian program, and then, if those failed, make the best of a bad situation.

But no more. He has flatly promised to stop Iran from getting a nuclear weapon—not to try, not to do everything humanly possible, but to stop it, period. In this test, there is no grading on the curve. Obama will either succeed in averting this dread prospect, or he will fail.

This is clearly a turning point in the long standoff. By ostentatiously closing off his exits, the president is endeavoring to leave two parties—Iran and Israel—with absolutely no doubts about his resolve.

He intends to dispel any hope the Tehran regime may harbor that it can proceed toward nukes without war. His message: You don't have a choice between having and not having the bomb. Your only choice is to stop building on your own or let us stop you.

As for Israel, Obama knows that the Israelis feel more urgency than he does. Why? Because the military resources Israel can deploy against Iran are far less than those available to the United States.

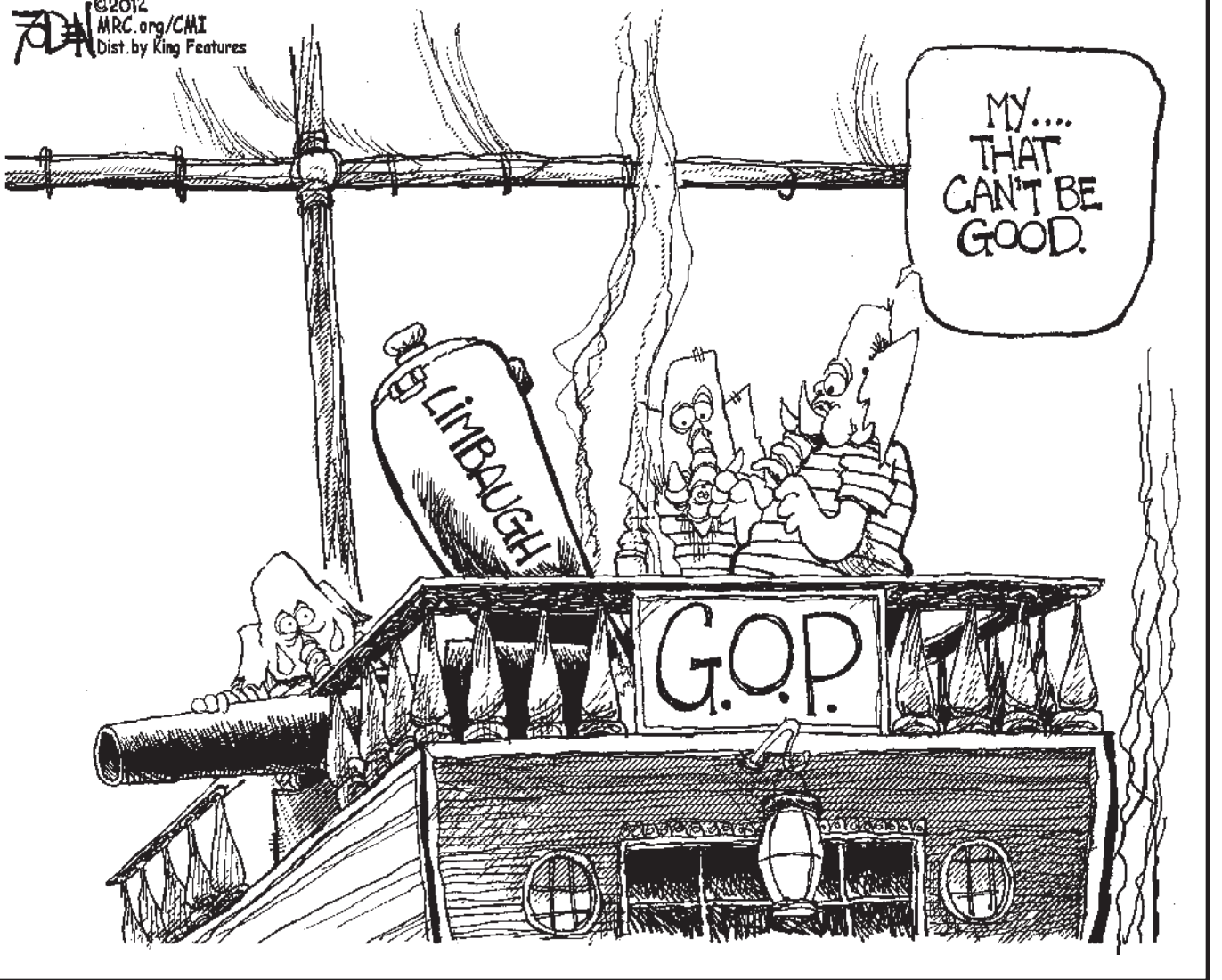
As a result, the Israeli government would have to take action relatively soon or else forfeit the chance to knock out the Iranian threat on its own. Netanyahu emphasized to Obama on Monday that "Israel must reserve the right to defend itself."

Obama doesn't disagree but wants Israel to delay any attack. That would buy time for the current regime of economic sanctions and diplomatic pressure to force Iran's retreat. To win Israel's forbearance, though, he has to convince Netanyahu that if that effort fails, the U.S. will do what Israel refrained from doing.

Israel will have to decide if and when to strike. Iran will have to decide whether to pursue nuclear bombs.

And Obama? He didn't leave himself much to decide. He didn't intend to.

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Putin's Pyrrhic victory

By LEON ARON
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Vladimir Putin was "elected" president of Russia again. That's not surprising: He has barred every pro-democracy opposition leader from running and limited the overwhelming majority of Russian citizens, who get their news mostly from the national television channels, to government propaganda. And after the spectacular and well-documented falsification of the results of the Dec. 4 parliamentary election, no one doubted that the wholly owned Kremlin subsidiary that is the Central Election Commission would "draw," as they say in Russia, any number that the boss ordered.

However, this was a Pyrrhic victory. Far from enhancing the Putin regime's legitimacy, the election diminished it further in the eyes of a significant part of the Russian population. How significant? According to a February poll of eligible voters by the most reputable of Russia's polling firms, the Levada Center, 35 percent of the respondents thought that the election would be "dirty." Furthermore, 13 percent of the adults polled said they were ready to participate in public protests.

But the numbers don't tell the whole story. Putin's "victory" will only increase the hatred of the regime by the protest's vanguard and will further alienate its members, adding to their determination and intensity. These are the tens of thousands of men and women who demonstrated in December, January and February under the "Putin must go" slogans and carried effigies of Putin in a striped prison uniform, "wanted" for "usurpation of power" or "theft."

To be sure, these protesters are a minority, as the Kremlin is never tired of reminding everyone. But so what? Few, if any, regime changes, let alone revolutions, have been started by the majority. The majority has families to feed and a living to make. It is the younger, the urban, the better educated who have led successful modern revolutions. And recent revolutions have added one critical factor: People who start them are getting uncensored news and opinions from the Internet and social media, not state-controlled television.

And make no mistake about it: This is a young, middle-class revolt. According to the Levada Center's polling, 62 percent of demonstrators who protested on Dec. 24 had college degrees or higher; a quarter were younger than 25 and more than half were under 40; almost half were professionals and almost a quarter were either managers or owners of businesses. At 12 percent, college students were the third-largest category. A plurality supported the "party of intelligentsia," the center-left Yabloko. More important still, almost 7 in 10 identified themselves as "democrats" or "liberals."

There is more bad news in these demographics for the regime. They appear to repeat the dynamics of successful post-authoritarian democratic modernization sketched in the writings of Samuel Huntington, Daniel Bell and Seymour Martin Lipset: After a period of record economic performance, a hugely expanded middle class is no longer content to enjoy unprecedented personal freedom and prosperity and wants to have political liberty and a say in governing. This is the road to democracy traveled by southern Europe (Spain, Portugal, Greece) in the 1970s and the Asian tigers (South Korea, Taiwan) in the 1980s. (As my late friend, the Russian reformer, economist and economic historian Yegor Gaidar, used to say: Russia is behind the West by about 50 years.)

Yet there is an even more compelling antecedent to Russia's protests. Every modern revolution, in essence, has been about morality and dignity, about citizens asserting themselves against an arrogant, overbearing, overcentralized and corrupt state. "Listen to us!" "Don't step on us!" "Don't lie to us!" "Don't steal from us!"—these key slogans of the Russian Spring are indistinguishable from those that inspired not only the Arab Spring but also the "color revolutions" (in Ukraine, Georgia and elsewhere) of the last decade.

But these Russian slogans are not borrowed from Arabic, Ukrainian or Georgian. They were home-grown more than 20 years ago, driven then as now by the same moral imperatives of dignity in liberty and democratic citizenship. For Mikhail Gorbachev then, the "renewal" of the society was inseparable from "the struggle for the dignity of man, his elevation, his honor." One of the glasnost era's finest essayists, Yuri Chernichenko, saw "millions learning to spell 'My ne raby': 'We are not slaves!'" In a draft constitution, on which he was working until an hour before his death in December 1989, scientist-turned-dissident Andrei Sakharov made securing "social, economic and civil rights of the individual" the state's main "goal."

This so passionately hoped-for restoration of human dignity puts one in mind of Alexis de Tocqueville's marvelous image in "The Old Regime and the Revolution," where he compares continuity in national political and social phenomena to rivers that, after going underground, "re-emerge at another point in new surroundings." If what we are seeing today in Russia is indeed the mighty river, which had flowed so widely and deeply in the late 1980s and early '90s, went underground in 2000 and is now re-emerging, swelling and quickening, it is hard to see how it can be prevented from sweeping away the current regime in yet another attempt at remaking Russia.

Leon Aron is director of Russian studies at the American Enterprise Institute. He is the author of the forthcoming *Roads to the Temple: Truth, Memory, Ideas and Ideals in the Making of the Russian Revolution, 1987-1991*. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Holy Ted Nugent, we're all foodies now

By **TRACIE MCMILLAN**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

A few years ago I bought a cookbook titled “Kill It and Grill It” for my boyfriend, a Yale grad who hunted and fished. Admittedly, I offered the gift ironically. I’d been drawn to it by its cover photo of ’70s rocker Ted Nugent and his wife, Shemane, each clad in a denim vest and clutching a rifle and knife, respectively. As a native of rural Michigan, I saw the image as both funny and dismaying. They kind of look like families I grew up with, I thought. But who buys a cookbook with a gun on it?

And yet, thumbing through it at home, I found passages that were eerily similar to the books and articles on local food I was beginning to read with regularity. On Page 121, I found something that could have been written by Michael Pollan. “The closer we can get to eating fruit from the tree, meat off the hoof, or vegetables from the ground, the better,” wrote Shemane in the 2002 book.

Shemane also warns that, in analyzing food ingredients: “If you can’t pronounce it, chances are it is not real food.” Sound familiar? Pollan’s Food Rule No. 7, formulated nearly a decade later, advises us, “Avoid food products containing ingredients a third-grader cannot pronounce.”

It would be easy to dismiss this overlap as little more than a missed opportunity for a reality show: A boar-hunting battle between Nugent and Pollan, or a cook-off between Alice Waters and Shemane. There is plenty on which ardent pro-gun supporters and the marquee names advocating for local and sustainable food do not agree. And yet, maybe that’s precisely the point.

One reason those imagined contests are funny is that we tend to

think that taking food seriously is the exclusive domain of those who are affluent, well educated and—let’s be honest—liberal. These assumptions are made by all sides, whether it’s Alice Waters insisting that some people don’t eat well because they prefer “to buy Nikes, two pairs,” or Sarah Palin tweeting that Michelle Obama’s efforts to make school food healthier represent a “nanny state run amok!”

Both comments are painfully far removed from the reality of most Americans’ lives. I know this not from my daily life as a writer in New York but because, in 2009 and 2010, I worked—and ate and lived—undercover researching America’s food system for a book. I made use of food banks alongside indigenous Mexicans I met in California fields, shared lunch breaks with single moms on my shift at a Michigan Wal-Mart, ate with my fellow kitchen workers at a New York City Applebee’s. If there’s one thing I learned, it’s that Palin and Waters are missing a very important fact: Many (and I would guess most) Americans care quite a lot about their food and health. The problem is that many of them find it incredibly difficult, because of time and money and access, to do much to improve the quality of what they eat.

It was Patti Good, a Kmart cashier from a declining Detroit suburb, who drove that point home for me. I was interviewing people who receive federal food assistance and participate in a matching-funds program called Double Up Food Bucks at the city’s Eastern Market, a bustling retail and wholesale farmers market spread across five massive sheds that have stood there for 150 years. Patti had driven 13 miles to get an extra \$20 for produce. “You can’t afford stuff like that all the time,” she said of oranges, adding that last year, with Double Up’s help, she’d been able to afford a real splurge: a pineapple.

Eastern Market is a bright spot in Detroit’s food landscape. City residents there have only about 1.6 square feet of grocery store per person; industry metrics consider 3 feet per person to be necessary to facilitate a sufficient food supply.

Nationwide, 23.5 million Americans live in “food deserts”—neighborhoods with insufficient grocery stores. The traditional explanation for food deserts is that there is insufficient demand for groceries in some neighborhoods, but Patti made me wonder if this isn’t a semantic hiccup. People everywhere have to eat; there is always demand for food, just as there is always demand for water. The challenge isn’t that people don’t want fresh food; rather, it’s how to get it to them at affordable prices. Supermarkets are one way, though their absence in communities, one expert told me, is an example of a “market failure.” Eastern Market offers another—and one, I noticed, that kept prices competitive by nixing the middleman.

Between Patti and the Nugents, I’ve lost any patience for the idea that caring about food is elitist; that’s just culture war posturing. Now, when people spout off about foodie pretensions or the poor’s misplaced priorities, I tell them about Patti, or I urge them to read the first few pages of “Kill It and Grill It.”

“It is good to know exactly where one’s food comes from,” writes Ted. “We sure as hell wouldn’t waste good hunger or any one of our much anticipated family mealtimes on fast food or junk food.”

So is Nugent a foodie? Given the term’s liberal, urban connotations, I doubt it. But the ideas he shares with the people who are offer a compelling reminder that good food is something on which most Americans already agree.

Tracie McMillan is the author of “The American Way of Eating” and a senior fellow at the Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Letters to the Editor

Why the retirees?

When will we wake up? Wake up now! Wake up now! Do not be fooled! The pain of fixing the Retirement Fund belongs to all the people of NMI. I lie awake at night trying to figure out how to survive when and if my pension is diminished. I have yet to figure it out. I actually do not think I can survive with my pension. I already have financial problems with my full pension.

What I have figured out is that the whole idea that the retirees should take the pain of the collapse of the Retirement Fund is ludicrous at best. Why the retirees? The retirees did nothing to cause the Fund to collapse! The fault goes to an administration, or administrations, that failed to uphold their oaths of office. They used money that should have gone to the Fund for other purposes. There was nothing legal or moral about their actions. Now we are a few years away from seeing the results of the actions of the CNMI government. Government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

The responsibility for acts of government belongs to everybody, not the retirees. When elected officials are allowed by the electorate to run wild and do whatever they want, someone will eventually have to bear the pain of correcting the situation. Why the retirees?

The Governor was re-elected for a second (extended) term fully aware of the problems of the Fund. If you voted for him, you voted for the demise of the Fund. His opponent swore to try to fix the

Fund. The voters did not elect the opponent. The voters are ultimately responsible for what an elected official does in office. Not the retirees. The officials were elected by the people of NMI. Not the retirees. It is the people of NMI collectively that should bear the pain of the sins of the government. I am not implying that no one should be prosecuted for their wrong actions, just that that is another problem to deal with later.

The electorate has known for years that the officials were neglecting their duty to honor their oaths to uphold the laws and the CNMI Constitution. They did not keep that oath when they looted the Fund. I use the word looted because that is what you are doing when you take money belonging to the Fund and use it to hire new people, or whatever you do with it. You had already committed that money to the Fund when you hired new employees. The idea that more employees can be hired if you use the contractual benefits of other employees is criminal. It is *criminal*.

I also hear the dirty little secrets like the \$117,666 pension being paid to someone! That sounds like something to be looked into. If that is true and there are unreasonable things like that, and double dipping, and double pensions, these things should be eliminated immediately. What are they waiting for? It is a good time to be cleaning up the Fund.

The way this should be seen is the CNMI government has a few years to prepare to pay the retirees out of the general fund (or find a way to bail out the Fund, or take the SSA’s offer, or whatever).

A few comments on the CHC saga

Being a newcomer and an individual about to leave this lovely island with its beautiful people, I can’t help but comment on the continuous saga between the government and CHC. Let’s presume all people in the government, the CHC administration and employees, and the news media are noble people and with people of the island at heart and without any selfish interests (it is a bold presumption, I know), I need to make the following observations:

1) CHC, the only hospital on the island, is a creation of the government intended to fulfill one of the important government functions. And it is the function of the government to maintain its operation to serve the people. But based on the old stories from the *Saipan Tribune*, CHC’s financial difficulty existed some 20 years ago. And from observations inside the hospital, a well-designed and equipped hospital deteriorated in such a way that a Third World hospital might be better, despite the hard work and endurance of the workers there.

2) Anybody who has some knowledge of running a hospital—either government-run or private—knows it needs at least two years to turn around a money-losing hospital and put it in the black, especially since the payer-mix on this island is much lower than the mainland.

3) I wonder what was the thinking process of the policymaker to turn CHC loose with just \$5 million in seed money, instead of the annual expenses of \$43 million, and expect it to survive on Day 1. It reminds me of the story of the fed-up and irresponsible father who gave his 18-year-old son on his 18th birthday a hundred dollars and told him to be independent, knowing that he had spent for the son \$10,000 annually. We have a not-too-smart son and an irresponsible father here.

4) Lastly, I’ve not seen a more dedicated group of health care providers: doctors, nurses and managing personnel in my 30 years of healthcare practice, for they continue to provide services to the people despite the deteriorated physical and financial condition of CHC. If we lose any number of them it would be a great loss to the island, and it would be hard to replace them.

I spent 11 months on the island and enjoyed every minutes of it, the weather, the people, my patients, co-workers, and the general public. I do wish our government will treasure this undiscovered gem.

Shun Young MD FACS, MSA
Navy Hill, Saipan

That is the only reasonable solution. That may well mean laying off people from the NMI payroll, along with other painful actions. That may mean turning off the air-conditioning! Parking some vehicles. Selling some land. Not the retirees!

We all need to keep foremost in our minds that the retirees did nothing to get here. Why would anyone think they should bear the pain of this correction? Three years is plenty of time to figure out what will need to be done to pay the retirees. Stop passing the blame to the retirees. The blame goes ultimately to the people of NMI. Not the retirees.

Jim McMahon
Fina Sisu, Saipan

Something fishy

I often buy fresh *katchu* or yellowfin tuna at roadside stands in Su-supe and Gualu Rai area. Many times the fishes are drenched in bloody water from the diluted ice and anyone can touch the fish in their ice chest container. I notice many times as well that day-old or two-day-old fish on sale are iced, but no one knows what the temperature reading is inside of the container. I do understand that the vendors of these roadside fish stands may have been cleared and properly certified by Public Health, but seeing any customer touching this food item in their container who is not a health-certified individual is a public nuisance and poses a health and food safety issue to the consumer.

This is just one issue, but the other significant matter is the weight and measure calibration of the scale used by these vendors. Because the fishes are submerged in water and ice, chances are the consumer is paying for the water and ice that come with the fish as they are taken out for weighing. Digital scales are more accurate than spring loaded scales. The consumers take things for granted, but 3 oz of water and ice is pretty substantial for a \$3/lb fish. All consumers sympathize with the fishermen who risk their lives and resources going out to the deep ocean and distant places in open seas to catch the fish for us, but on the other hand, we all must pay fair prices for the goods that we pay for.

It is expected that Public Health’s health certification for vendors would ensure that the fishes in these roadside stands meet all health regulations, but at the same time, Revenue and Taxation should also keep up with the weights and measures of the scales used by the vendors. As a consumer that often buys from these roadside stands, I will not be complaining if I could see in plain view that all these vendors are cleared by Public Health, and Revenue and Taxation actually calibrates and certifies the accuracy of the scales used by these vendors.

Francisco R. Agulto
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 75°	▲ 86° ▼ 75°	▲ 86° ▼ 75°	▲ 86° ▼ 75°	▲ 86° ▼ 75°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Yap	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲ 90 ▼ 78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Majuro	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 80

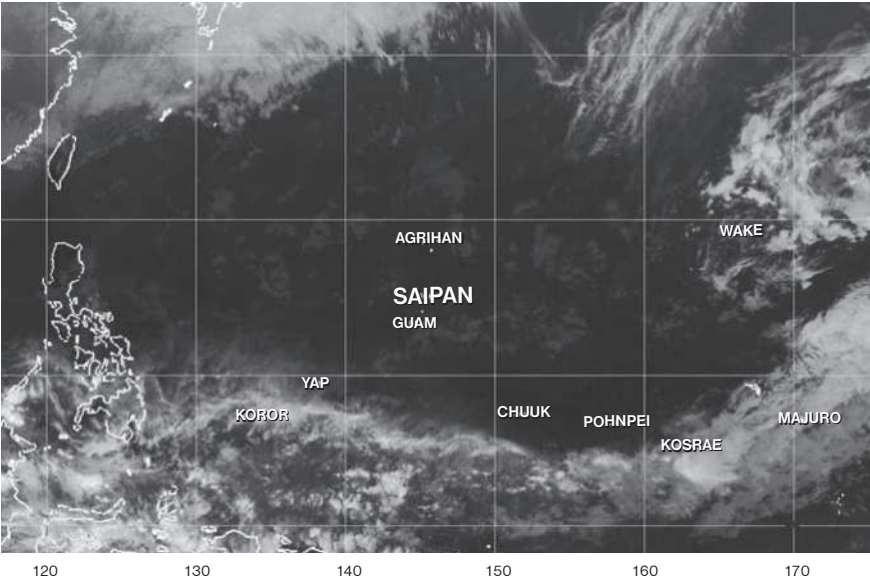
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 73 ▼ 63
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 46 ▼ 24
Hong Kong	Showers	▲ 66 ▼ 56
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 77 ▼ 69
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 54 ▼ 43
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 72 ▼ 48
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲ 91 ▼ 76
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 70 ▼ 57
Miami	Showers	▲ 81 ▼ 70
New York	Windy	▲ 69 ▼ 46
Osaka	Showers	▲ 49 ▼ 44
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲ 54 ▼ 33
Pusan	Showers	▲ 50 ▼ 40
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲ 61 ▼ 42
Salem	Sunny	▲ 60 ▼ 36
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 65 ▼ 45
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 48 ▼ 29
Tokyo	Showers	▲ 49 ▼ 44
Washington, DC	Windy	▲ 73 ▼ 52

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
1:31 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet	
7:49 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet	
1:55 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet	
7:37 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An upper-level low is centered near 16N166E with a trough extending southwestward to near Kosrae. Widely scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are around the Wake Island area between 15N and 25N from 165E to 177E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across the Northern Marshall Islands are between 10N and 14N from 170E to 180. A trade-wind disturbance along with upper-level divergence are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across Kosrae and the Marshall Islands in an area from 4N153E to 10N170E to 10N180 to 6N180 to EQ165E back to 4N153E. A surface trough far south of Guam is triggering scattered showers between the equator and 4N from 140E to 150E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:30 AM	6:26 PM
Friday	6:29 AM	6:26 PM
Saturday	6:28 AM	6:26 PM
Sunday	6:28 AM	6:27 PM
Monday	6:27 AM	6:27 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:17 PM	5:54 AM
Friday	7:16 PM	6:40 AM
Saturday	8:17 PM	7:27 AM
Sunday	9:18 PM	8:16 AM
Monday	10:21 PM	9:08 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
■ **CAMPUS BULLETIN** Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.
■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) C05062 2:10am 2:40am 1, 5	ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) C05064 5:15am 5:45am 1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP) C05064 4:15am 4:50am 1, 5	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN) C05062 3:10am 3:45am 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) C05064 4:15am 5:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05068 8:25am 9:15am Daily C05074 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05076 3:10pm 4:00pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 6:50pm 7:40pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 7:00pm 7:50pm 3, 6 C05072 9:55pm 10:45pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05072 10:05pm 10:55pm 3, 6	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN C05062 2:10am 3:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05071 7:00am 7:50am Daily C05073 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05075 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:30pm 6:20pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:40pm 6:30pm 3, 6 C05079 8:35pm 9:25pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05079 8:45pm 9:35pm 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL285 6:35am 9:15am 1, 3, 5, 7 DL297 4:25pm 7:15pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily DL286 7:40pm 12:20am+1 2, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:35am 7:05am 4, 7 DL581 4:10am 7:30am 1, 5	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 6 DL580 10:10pm 2:55am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05070/191 4:35am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT C05068/183 8:25am 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05068/183 8:25am 9:40pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:40pm 1, 4, 7 via GUM C05076/193 3:10pm 11:00pm 2, 5 via GUM-Palau OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN C05072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 5, 7 via GUM C05072/PR111 10:05pm 7:50am+1 3, 6 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN DL172/288 8:00am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT C0190/5077 10:55am 6:30pm 3, 6 via GUM C0190/5079 10:55am 9:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C05071 10:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0192/5071 10:25pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM-Palau C0184/5071 11:10pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ704/603 11:40pm 2:20pm Daily via ICN C0184/5071 11:59pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05076/147 3:10pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:30pm Daily via ICN OZ604/749 3:20pm 10:50pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ724/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ750/603 1:00am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0180/5071 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana	
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 100	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

New iPad expected to have modest upgrades

NEW YORK (AP)—Apple is expected to reveal a new iPad model on Wednesday, with a sharper screen and perhaps an option for faster wireless broadband. The upgrades are relatively minor, but the iPad is secure in its position as the king of tablets.

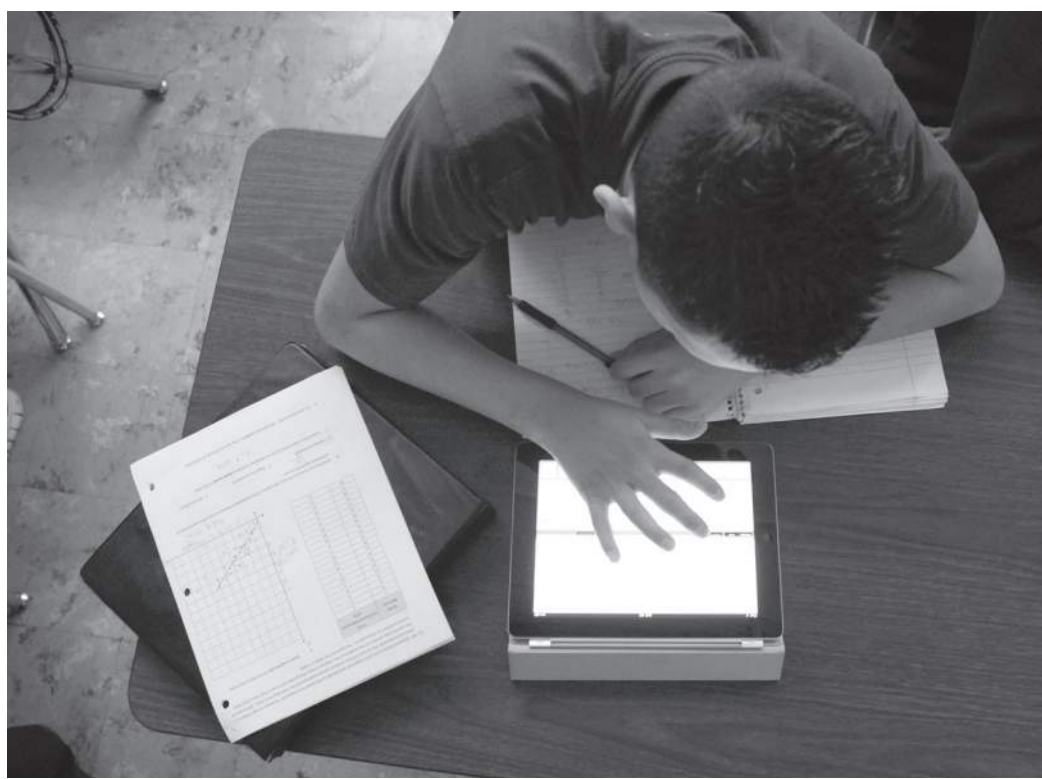
As usual, Apple has kept the features of the new device secret. No matter what they are, analysts expect the new iPad to be a success, riding on the popularity of the previous models, as well as pent-up demand from consumers who have been waiting for the new model.

The iPad 2 was a big step up from the original iPad, since Apple included a camera and reduced both the thickness and the weight of the device. But there isn't that much Apple can do to jazz up the iPad 3. Company watchers expect the new device to have the same basic size and weight as last year's model.

Nearly a year ago, the iPad 2 went on sale nine days after it was revealed. Apple watchers expect similar timing this year.

Some of the rumored new features include:

-A sharper screen, similar to the "Retina Display" on the iPhone 4



In this Jan. 17, 2012 photo, Grant Beacon Middle School student, Jeriah Garcia, 13-years-old, works out an algebra problem on his school-supplied iPad in class at Grant, Colo. Apple is expected to reveal a new iPad on Wednesday, March 7, 2012, a device with a sharper screen, a faster processor and an option for faster wireless broadband.

and 4s. The rumored resolution is 2048 by 1536 pixels, which would make text look smoother and some high-resolution pictures look better. It won't make much

of a difference for images on the Web, or video.

Some speculate that Apple will call the model the "iPad HD," for "high definition," rather

than "iPad 3."

■ The new iPad could include Siri, the voice-activated "assistant" found on the iPhone 4S. Siri has gotten mixed reviews,

but Apple has been touting the feature heavily in its advertising, and it would make sense to expand the availability of this high-profile feature.

■ Faster wireless capabilities. iPads are available with built-in modems for AT&T's and Verizon's third-generation, or "3G" cellular networks in the U.S. The iPad 3 could come in a version that offers faster "4G" or "LTE" networks. However, most iPads are used only on Wi-Fi, so an "LTE" chip wouldn't matter to most buyers.

In this respect, Apple is playing catch-up. Some competitors, such as Samsung and Motorola, already sell LTE-compatible tablets.

Since last fall, Sprint Nextel Corp. has sold the iPhone. But it doesn't sell the iPad. It's possible it could join AT&T and Verizon Wireless in selling the iPad 3.

■ A faster processor. This is pretty much a given, since every new iPhone or iPad has improved on the computing power of its predecessor. But few users complain about their iPads being slow, so this should not be a major selling point.

Sarah Rotman Epps, an analyst for Forrester Research, said hardware features aren't that important to tablet buyers.

"It's about the services—what you can do with the device," she said in a blog post.

Apple's competitors have slowly come to realize this, but only after bringing out dozens of tablets with whiz-bang features like 3-D cameras. The competitor that's done the best is Amazon.com Inc. Its Kindle Fire tablet is cheaper than the iPad, but what really sets it apart is that it's tied into Amazon's book, movie and music stores, making it an easy route to entertainment, just like the iPad.

Still, the Kindle Fire has a long way to go. Epps estimates that Amazon sold 5.5 million Kindle Fires in the fourth quarter of last year. Meanwhile, Apple sold 15.4 million iPads, and has sold 55.3 million in total.

According to Canaccord Genuity, 63 percent of the tablets shipped last year were iPads. The only competitors with more than 5 percent market share were Amazon and Samsung Electronics Co.

Financier Stanford convicted in \$7 billion fraud

HOUSTON (AP)—Former Texas tycoon R. Allen Stanford, whose financial empire once spanned the Americas and made him fabulously wealthy, was convicted Tuesday of bilking his investors out of more than \$7 billion through a Ponzi scheme he operated for 20 years.

A day after telling U.S. District Judge David Hittner they were having trouble reaching a verdict, jurors convicted Stanford on 13 of 14 charges he faced, acquitting him on a single count of wire fraud stemming from Super Bowl tickets he allegedly used to bribe a regulator.

Stanford, who was once considered one of the wealthiest people in the U.S., looked down when the verdict was read. His mother and daughters, who were

in the federal courtroom in Houston, hugged one another, and one of the daughters started crying.

"We are disappointed in the outcome. We expect to appeal," Ali Fazel, one of Stanford's attorneys, said after the hearing. He said he couldn't comment further because of a gag order Hittner placed on attorneys in the case.

Prosecutors and Stanford's family members declined to comment, but one of his investors, Cassie Wilkinson, welcomed the verdict.

"As an investor, you have to doubt whether or not you were stupid or just taken advantage of. This relieves that doubt. It's

a vindication," said Wilkinson, 62, who lives in Houston. She declined to say how much money she and her husband lost.

A shorter civil trial before the same jury, in which prosecutors hoped to seize money from more than 30 Stanford-controlled accounts in countries including Switzerland, Britain and Canada, began later Tuesday. Hittner will likely set Stanford's sentencing date after the civil trial, which could last as little as a day.

Stanford, 61, faces up to 20 years for the most serious charges against him. But if Hittner orders him to serve his sentences consecutively, Stanford could get up to 230 years in prison.



Stanford

Disgraced financier Bernard Madoff, by comparison, was sentenced to 150 years in prison for orchestrating the largest Ponzi scheme in history.

Prosecutors say Stanford used investor money to fund a string of failed businesses, bribe regulators and pay for his lavish lifestyle, which included buying himself yachts and private jets. His attorneys portrayed Stanford as a visionary entrepreneur who made money for investors and conducted legitimate business deals.

Stanford was once considered one of the wealthiest people in the U.S. with an estimated net worth of more than \$2 billion. But he had court-appointed attorneys after his assets were seized.

gasoline should cost an average of \$3.79 per gallon. Government data show Americans paid an average of \$3.53 per gallon in 2011.

Gasoline already exceeds \$4 per gallon in California, Alaska and Hawaii, which is tops at \$4.37. It's close to \$4 in several other states, including Connecticut, Illinois, Michigan, New York, Oregon and Washington.

In response, U.S. drivers are driving less and buying less gasoline. MasterCard SpendingPulse, which uses credit card purchases to estimate gasoline consumption, said average gasoline demand fell last week by 6.3 percent when compared with a year earlier.

Gas price hikes end after 27 days; oil sinks

NEW YORK (AP)—Gasoline prices have finally dropped after 27 straight days of increases.

The nationwide average for regular unleaded slipped less than a penny to \$3.764 per gallon. That ended a streak of price hikes that began on Feb. 8. Pump prices rose by more than 28 cents per gallon in that period, making gasoline the most expensive ever for this time of year.

Also Tuesday, oil fell to its lowest price in about two weeks, while the price of natural gas remained near a 10-year low.

The relief at the pump should be temporary. Experts predict

that gasoline prices will rise over the next several weeks. The Oil Price Information Service says the nationwide average could peak at \$4.25 per gallon in late April, beating the record high of \$4.11 per gallon set in July 2008. That will likely keep gas prices front and center in the presidential campaign and economists will argue their impact on the U.S. economy.

At a White House press conference, President Obama dismissed suggestions by some of his Republican critics that he wants to see gasoline prices rise. No president wants to put more financial strain on American

families, especially in an election year, Obama said.

The White House will continue to look for ways to reduce the amount of oil Americans consume, Obama said. The president also asked his attorney general to examine whether speculators were driving up the price of oil.

But "there is no silver bullet" for lowering oil and gas prices, Obama warned.

Meanwhile, the government boosted its estimates for average oil and gasoline prices. The Energy Department said the average price of oil should be nearly \$106 per barrel this year while

Android Market checks out as Google Play moves in

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Google's digital marketplace for mobile applications, music, movies and books is unifying under a new name in an effort to spruce up the shopping experience.

Beginning Tuesday, the Android Market will be known as the Google Play Store. Google's eBookstore and recently launched music service will also be part of the Google Play Store. The same selection of books, music and movies had already been available on Android Market.

The rebranding will be ushered in with a series of tweaks designed to make it easier for customers to manage their content and navigate from one section of the store to another. None of the changes will affect the digital content that existing customers have already purchased and stored on Google computers in password-protected accounts.

Google is trying to establish a one-stop shop that can satisfy everyone's digital desires, whether they are on a mobile device or a desktop computer's Web browser. The effort is part of the Internet search leader's broader ambition to diversify beyond online advertising, which still accounts for 96 percent of its revenue.

With Google Play, the company hopes more people, who occasionally went to the old Android Market to buy mobile apps,

will start noticing other types of content and consider buying an electronic book or album, too. If that happens, Google Inc. believes more digital content providers will want to peddle their wares in its store.

One obvious hole that still needs to be filled exists in the music department. Since Google began selling songs four months ago, only three of the four major recording labels—Vivendi SA's Universal Music, EMI Group Ltd. and Sony Music Entertainment—have agreed to offer their material in the Android Market. Warner Music Group remains a notable holdout as the market switches to its Google Play identity.

To lure traffic to the new store, Google is offering daily specials that lower the prices on featured books, movies and albums to as low as 25 cents apiece during the next week.

Since it opened in October 2008, the Android Market had steadily grown along with the usage of mobile devices running on Google's Android software. More than 300 million Android devices are currently in use worldwide. Another 6 million are activated each week. The huge audience is the main reason the Android Market has amassed more than 450,000 mobile apps. Google also stocks more than 4 million books, including free titles, and more than 13 million songs and movies.

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Special Forces soldier dies trying to save NC kids

HOPE MILLS, N.C. (AP)—A decorated Green Beret leapt from the second-story of his burning home early Tuesday, wrapped himself in a blanket and ran back inside in an attempt to save his two young daughters. Firefighters recovered the body of Chief Warrant Officer Edward Cantrell on the second floor of his North Carolina home, not far from the remains of 6-year-old Isabella and 4-year-old Natalia. “He never made it back out,” said Debbie Tanna, spokeswoman for the Cumberland County sheriff’s office. Cantrell’s wife and the girl’s mother, Louise, also jumped from the second floor. She was treated and released from a Fayetteville hospital for smoke inhalation. The family dog, a Rottweiler named Sasha, also survived the fire.

Cops: Fired Fla. teacher kills headmistress, self

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—A teacher fired from a private school in Florida on Tuesday returned to the campus with a gun hidden in a guitar case and shot the headmistress to death before committing suicide while school was in session, authorities said. No students were hurt. Officers responded to the Episcopal School of Jacksonville at 1:23 p.m. Tuesday after receiving reports of a person with a gun, and the school was placed on lockdown. When officers arrived, Dale Regan, head of the school, and the gunman were found dead, Undersheriff Dwain Senterfitt said. When the lockdown began Tuesday afternoon, many students didn’t immediately know it was a real emergency.

8 women allege rape, harassment in military suit

WASHINGTON (AP)—Eight current and former members of the U.S. military allege in a new federal lawsuit that they were raped, assaulted or harassed during their service and suffered retaliation when they reported it to their superiors. The lawsuit, filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Washington, accuses the military of having a “high tolerance for sexual predators in their ranks” and fostering a hostile environment that discourages victims of sexual assault from coming forward and punishes them when they do. The suit claims the Defense Department has failed to take aggressive steps to confront the problem despite public statements suggesting otherwise. The eight women include an active-duty enlisted Marine and seven others who served in the Navy and Marine Corps. Seven women allege that a comrade raped or tried to sexually assault them, including in a commanding officer’s office after a pub crawl in Washington and inside a Naval Air Station barracks room in Florida. The eighth says she was harassed and threatened while deployed to Iraq, only to be told by a superior that “this happens all the time.”

Calif. man arrested after cannon kills girlfriend

SAN DIEGO (AP)—A man was arrested Tuesday after a homemade cannon blasted through his mobile home, killing his girlfriend in a mountain community near San Diego, authorities said. Richard Fox, 39, shot the cannon after loading it with fireworks powder, said San Diego County sheriff’s Sgt. David Martinez. His 38-year-old girlfriend was found dead from shrapnel wounds when authorities arrived at the home. Fox was treated at a hospital for shrapnel wounds to his right leg and arrested for investigation of exploding a device resulting in death, Martinez said. Three other adults and a 4-year-old girl who were inside the home escaped injury.

Romney wins Ohio, 5 other Super Tuesday states

WASHINGTON (AP)—Mitt Romney squeezed out a win in pivotal Ohio, captured five other states with ease and padded his delegate lead in the race for the Republican presidential nomination but was forced to share the Super Tuesday spotlight with a resurgent Rick Santorum.

“I’m going to get this nomination,” Romney told cheering supporters in Massachusetts, pointing particularly to delegate support that was greater than the combined totals of his three rivals.

On the busiest night of the campaign, he scored a home-state win in Massachusetts to go with primary victories in Vermont and in Virginia—where neither Santorum nor Newt Gingrich was on the ballot. He added the Idaho and Alaska caucuses to his column.

Ohio was the big win, though, and the closest contest of all as the Republican rivals battled for the chance to face Democratic President Barack Obama in November.

Santorum countered crisply, winning primaries in Oklahoma and Tennessee and the North Dakota caucuses—raising fresh doubts about Romney’s ability to corral the votes of conservatives in some of the most Republican states in the country.

Ohio was the marquee matchup, a second industrial-state showdown in as many weeks between Romney and Santorum. It drew the most campaigning and television advertisements of all 10 Super Tuesday contests and for good reason—no Republican has ever won the White House without carrying the state in the fall.

After trailing for much of the night, Romney forged ahead in a count that stretched past midnight. With votes tallied in 99 percent of the state’s precincts, he led by about 12,000 out of more than 1.1 million cast.

Gingrich had a victory in his column, too—his first win in more than six weeks. The former House speaker triumphed at home in Georgia, but a barrage of attack ads by a super PAC supporting Romney helped hold him below 50 percent and forced him to share the delegates.

Texas Rep. Ron Paul had pinned his hopes on Alaska as he scratched for his first victory of the campaign season, but he came in second to Romney.

Santorum waited until Oklahoma and Tennessee fell into his column before speaking to cheering supporters in Ohio. “This was a big night tonight,” he said. “We have won in the West, the Midwest and the South, and we’re ready to win across this country.”

In all, there were primaries in Virginia, Vermont, Ohio, Massachusetts, Georgia, Tennessee and Oklahoma. Caucuses in North Dakota, Idaho and Alaska rounded out the calendar.

Romney picked up at least 183 of the 419 Super Tuesday delegates at stake. Santorum gained at least 64, Gingrich 52 and Paul 15. About 100 remained to be allocated, and Romney and Santorum appeared in line for many if not most of them.

That gave the former Massachusetts governor 386, more than all his

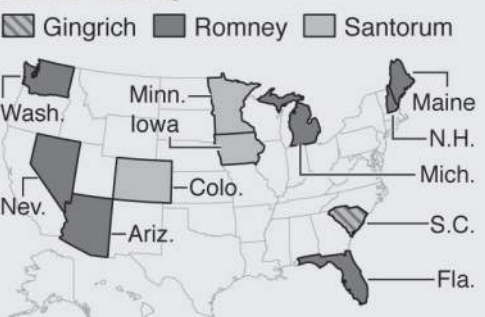
Super Tuesday vote

How the Republican presidential candidates fared in Tuesday’s 10-state array of primaries and caucuses:

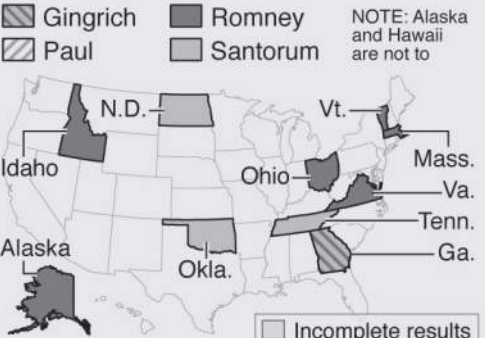
Results as of 1 a.m. ET Wednesday				
Leading				
Projected winner				
	Newt Gingrich	Ron Paul	Mitt Romney	Rick Santorum
Alaska*	14%	21%	38%	27%
Ga.	47	6	26	20
Idaho	3	17	69	12
Mass.	5	10	72	12
N.D.	8	28	24	40
Ohio	15	9	38	37
Okla.	27	10	28	34
Tenn.	24	9	28	37
Va.	—	40	60	—
Vt.	8	25	40	24

*Alaska returns are from 8 percent of districts
Source: AP Graphic: Robert Dorrell NOTE: Wyoming holds its GOP county conventions from March 6 through March 10 © 2012 MCT

States won before Tuesday



States won on Tuesday (or led by)



rivals combined, a total that included endorsements from members of the Republican National Committee who automatically attend the convention and can support any candidate they choose. Santorum had 156 delegates, Gingrich 85 and Paul 40. It takes 1,144 delegates to win the nomination at the Republican National Convention in Tampa, Fla., this summer.

The split of the states ensured that the most turbulent Republican presidential campaign in a generation would continue.

Already, the candidates were looking ahead to the next contests, Kansas and Wyoming caucuses on Saturday, followed by Alabama and Mississippi primaries on March 13.

Restore our Future, the super PAC that backs Romney, disclosed a near-\$1 million investment for television ads in Illinois, the next big-state primary on the calendar, on March 20. The organization is already airing commercials in Mississippi and Alabama, as is a group that supports Gingrich, although at lower levels.

Ohio Republicans were a party divided, based not only on the popular vote but also on interviews with voters as they left their polling places.

Santorum outpolled Romney among Ohioans with incomes under \$100,000, while Romney won among those with six-figure incomes and up. Romney won among working women, Santorum among women who do not.

Santorum won among self-described conservatives, while Romney outpointed his rival among those who said they are moderate or liberal.

Santorum was preferred by the half of the electorate that is born-again. Romney was the favorite among the half of the electorate that said it is not.

In interviews in all the primary states, Republicans said the economy was the top issue and an ability to defeat Obama was what mattered most as they made their Super Tuesday choices.

They also indicated nagging concerns about the candidate they supported, even in Massachusetts. There, one-third of all primary voters said they had reservations, and about three-quarters of those voted for Romney.

Massachusetts is a reliably Democratic state in most presidential elections, but in Ohio, 41 percent of primary voters said they, too, had reservations about the candidate they supported. No Republican has ever won the White House without capturing Ohio.

Gingrich’s victory was his first since he captured the South Carolina primary on Jan. 21, and the former House speaker said it would propel him on yet another comeback in a race where he has faded badly over the past six weeks.

Obama, the man they hope to defeat in November, dismissed the almost-constant criticism of his foreign policy efforts and accused Republicans of “beating the drums of war” over Iran. “Those folks don’t have a lot of responsibilities. They’re not commander in chief,” he said. Unopposed for the Democratic nomination to a second term, he stepped into the Republican race with a Super Tuesday news conference at the White House, then attended a \$35,800-a-ticket fundraiser a few blocks from the White House.

Ohio was the day’s biggest prize in political significance, a heavily populated industrial state that tested Santorum’s ability to challenge Romney in a traditional fall battleground. Georgia, Gingrich’s home political field, outranked them all in the number of delegates at stake, with 76, a total that reflected a reliable Republican voting pattern as well as population.

Romney, the leader in the early delegate chase, flew to Massachusetts to vote and said he hoped for a good home-state win.

He also took issue with Obama, saying, “I think all of us are being pretty serious” about Iran and its possible attempt to develop nuclear weapons.

Gingrich effectively acknowledged he had scant Super Tuesday prospects outside Georgia, where he launched his political career nearly three decades ago. Instead, he was pointing to primaries next week in Alabama and Mississippi, and he told an audience, “With your help, by the end of next week we could really be in a totally new race.”

The polls show the president’s chances for re-election have improved in recent months, as the economy has strengthened, unemployment has slowly declined and Republicans have ripped into one another in the most tumultuous nominating campaign the party has endured since 1976.

The former Massachusetts governor campaigned into Super Tuesday on a winning streak. He captured the Washington state caucuses last Saturday, days after winning a little-contested primary in Arizona and a hard-fought one in Michigan. He won the Maine caucuses earlier in February.

The victories helped settle his campaign, which was staggered when Santorum won a pair of caucuses and a non-binding Missouri primary on Feb. 7.

Santorum and Gingrich have vied for months to emerge as the sole conservative alternative to Romney, and they battered him as a moderate who would lead the party to defeat in November.

But Romney, backed by a heavily financed super PAC, countered Gingrich’s victory in the South Carolina primary with a comeback win in Florida. Last week, it was Santorum’s turn to fall, as Romney eked out a win in Michigan after trailing by double digits in some polls 10 days before the primary.

Santorum’s recent rise has translated into campaign receipts of \$9 million in February, his aides announced last week.

Even so, Romney and Restore our Future, the super PAC supporting him, outspent the other candidates and their supporters on television in the key Super Tuesday states.

Asia

China calls Tibetan immolators criminals, outcasts

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese officials sought Wednesday to discredit about two dozen Tibetans who have set themselves on fire to protest China's rule over their region as outcasts, criminals and mentally ill people manipulated by the exiled Dalai Lama.

The Tibetan Buddhist spiritual leader has said he does not encourage the self-immolations. However, Chinese officials have sought to portray the past year's wave of immolations—including three since Saturday—as the result of outside orchestration rather than what activists say is local unrest over the government's suppression of Tibetan religion and culture.

Many of the protesters have been linked to a Buddhist monastery in the mountainous Aba

prefecture of Sichuan province.

"Some of the suicides are committed by clerics returning to lay life, and they all have criminal records or suspicious activities. They have a very bad reputation in society," said Wu Zegang, an ethnic Tibetan who is the government's top administrator in Aba.

Wu told reporters in Beijing that the self-immolations were "orchestrated and supported" by the Dalai Lama and Tibetan independence forces. He said that before setting themselves on fire, the immolators shouted "independence for Tibet and other slogans that aim to divide the nation."

The most recent immolations in Aba occurred just days ago. A 32-year-old mother of four set

herself ablaze and died in Aba on Saturday and an 18-year-old identified only as Dorje died after self-immolating on Monday, according to earlier reports from the International Committee for Tibet and U.S. broadcaster Radio Free Asia.

The official Xinhua News Agency confirmed the immolation of another woman Saturday in neighboring Gansu province, but said that the 20-year-old student may have been pushed to suicide because of pressure at school and because of a head injury.

Xinhua quoted local officials in Gansu province as saying that Tsering Kyi had been hospitalized after hitting her head on a radiator and suffered fainting spells prior to setting herself on fire.

Xinhua said her school grades started to slip, "which put a lot of pressure on her and made her lose her courage for life and study."

China has confirmed some but not all of the approximately 25 immolations reported by overseas media and Tibetan rights advocates since last year, and there are competing tallies of immolations and deaths from different groups.

Li Changping, a member of the Communist Party committee that governs Sichuan, who

recently visited Aba and Sichuan's Ganzi prefecture, where several immolations have also been reported, said that "about 20 or so" people have set themselves on fire in Sichuan in the past two years.

Such acts show no signs of abating, even as China ratchets up security and seals off Tibetan areas to outsiders, making it impossible to know what is actually happening inside.

China blames supporters of the exiled Tibetan Buddhist

leader the Dalai Lama for encouraging the self-immolations and anti-government protests that have led to the deaths of an unknown number of Tibetans at the hands of police.

The Dalai Lama has praised the courage of those who engage in self-immolation and has attributed the protests to what he calls China's "cultural genocide" in Tibet. But he also says he does not encourage the protests, noting that they could invite an even harsher crackdown.

Avalanche buries village in Afghanistan; 47 dead

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Rescuers shoveled through deep snow Wednesday searching for victims of an avalanche that destroyed a village of 200 people in northeastern Afghanistan, authorities said. Forty-seven people have been confirmed dead.

"We hope that some people were inside their homes and are still alive," said Shams Ul Rahman, the deputy governor of Badakhshan province, where the avalanche occurred on Sunday night.

"But if the snow was too heavy, they may all be dead," he added.

The Defense Ministry was sending helicopters to Dasty village in Badakhshan's Darzab region Wednesday to help with the rescue effort, Rahman said.

People from a nearby village were the first to reach the site. They were joined on Tuesday by rescue workers from Darwaz district, who walked for two days to reach the remote area.

About 100 rescuers equipped only with shovels were digging through mounds of snow look-

ing for anyone who might have survived, Rahman said. He said initial reports were that only three women and one child survived the avalanche. They were not in the village of Dasty at the time.

Mohammad Daim Kakar, general director of the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority, said at least 47 people have been confirmed dead.

The U.S. Embassy in Kabul expressed condolences to the families of those killed in the avalanche. USAID's office for disaster assistance was planning to send supplies, such as tents and plastic sheeting, through a partner in Tajikistan to help the people in the area.

Deadly avalanches are common in Afghanistan's mountainous north in winter. In February 2010, an avalanche killed more than 170 people at the 12,700-foot (3,800-meter)-high Salang Pass, which is the major route through the Hindu Kush mountains that connects the capital to the north.

At least three avalanches struck the Darzab area on Sunday, said Abdul Marouf Rasekh, a provincial spokesman. The provincial governor was visiting the area when the avalanches started and was briefly stranded in a nearby village, Rasekh said.

The governor and his team on Tuesday made their way to Dushanbe, the Tajik capital, which is the closest city to the avalanche area, he said. Gov. Shah Waliullah Adeeb was expected back in Faizabad on Wednesday.

In Kabul, Badakhshan lawmaker Fawzia Kofi appealed to the international community for help in the rescue effort. She said the only rescuers who have so far been able to reach the avalanche site were people from surrounding villages.

"Nobody except local people have managed to get to that village, walking 11 hours," Kofi said. She added that Badakhshan has had a particularly deadly winter, with more than 200 people killed by avalanches in the past months.

people, officials said. All those killed in the mid-day blast in Spin Boldak, on the Pakistani border, were civilians, said Zalmai Ayubi, a spokesman for the Kandahar provincial government. Eight people were wounded in the explosion, including one border police officer, he said.

US envoys in Beijing for NKorea food aid talks

BEIJING (AP)—U.S. envoys met with North Korean counterparts Wednesday to finalize arrangements for the first U.S. government food aid shipment to the impoverished North in three years, part of an agreement aimed at ending Pyongyang's nuclear programs. Special envoy Robert King and senior aid official Jon Brause said the talks are intended to ensure proper procedures and safeguards are in place to make sure that nutritional aid for about 1 million North Koreans gets to those who need it most. The program is focusing on vulnerable groups such as children, pregnant women, nursing mothers and the elderly.



AP
Exile Tibetans take part in a protest outside the U.N. office in New Delhi, India, Tuesday, March 6, 2012. The exile Tibetans appealed to the U.N. to send a fact finding delegation to access the critical situation in Tibet and to release all political prisoners.

Uncertain risks torment Japanese in nuclear zone

FUKUSHIMA, Japan (AP)—Yoshiko Ota keeps her windows shut. She never hangs her laundry outdoors. Fearful of birth defects, she warns her daughters: Never have children.

This is life with radiation, nearly one year after a tsunami-hit nuclear power plant began spewing it into Ota's neighborhood, 40 miles (60 kilometers) away. She's so worried that she has broken out in hives.

"The government spokesman keeps saying there are no IMMEDIATE health effects," the 48-year-old nursery school worker says. "He's not talking about 10 years or 20 years later. He must think the people of Fukushima are fools."

"It's not really OK to live here," she says. "But we live here."

Ota takes metabolism-enhancing pills in hopes of flushing radiation out of her body. To limit her exposure, she goes out of her way to buy vegetables that are not grown locally. She spends 10,000 yen (\$125) a month on bottled water to avoid the tap water. She even mail-ordered a special machine to dehusk her family's rice.

Not everyone resorts to such measures, but a sense of unease pervades the residents of Fukushima. Some have moved away.

Everyone else knows they are living with an invisible enemy.

Radiation is still leaking from the now-closed Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant, though at a slower pace than it did in the weeks after the March 11 earthquake and tsunami. It's not immediately fatal but could show up as cancer or other illnesses years later.

The uncertainty breeds fear. Some experts say the risks are quite low outside the 20-kilometer (12-mile) no-go zone, and people can take steps to protect themselves, such as limiting intake of locally grown food, not lingering in radiation "hot spots" such as around gutters and foliage, and periodically living outside the area. But risks are much higher for children, and no one can say for sure what level of exposure is safe.

What's clear is Fukushima will serve as a test case that the world is watching for long-term exposure to low-dose radiation.

More than 280,000 people live in Fukushima city alone, though some have left, and many more live in surrounding towns, including many of the 100,000 who have been evacuated from the no-go zone.

"People are scared to death,"

says Wolfgang Weiss, chairman of the U.N. Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, which is studying Fukushima. "They are thinking, 'Tell me. Is it good or bad?' We can't tell them. ... Life is risky."

It hasn't helped that the government has given only the most optimistic scenarios of the risks to avoid mass panic.

Public skepticism of government assurances grew when the man appointed as health adviser for Fukushima prefecture, Shunichi Yamashita, repeatedly said exposure to 100 millisieverts of radiation a year was safe.

Studies have found that cancer risks rise at an annual exposure of 100 millisieverts or above but aren't statistically detectable at lower levels. Below 100, experts can't say for sure whether it's safe, just that a link to cancer can't be proven.

In Fukushima and nearby areas, outside the 20-kilometer evacuation zone, the annual exposure is 20 millisieverts in some places and as high as 50 in others. Before the disaster, people in Japan were exposed to about 1 millisievert of natural background radiation a year; in the United States the average is about 3 millisieverts.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Philippine ex-election chief arraigned for fraud

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine court has entered a "not guilty" plea during the arraignment of a former elections chief accused of aiding vote fraud allegedly ordered by ex-President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. Former Elections Commission Chairman Benjamin Abalos has been detained since December on charges he helped rig the 2007 senatorial elections to ensure victory for Arroyo's candidates in a Muslim autonomous region governed at the time by her political ally. Abalos has denied the charges, but he questioned the Pasay City court's jurisdiction over the case and refused to enter a plea during Wednesday's arraignment. Judge Eugenio dela Cruz entered the plea for him.

Motorcycle bomb kills 4 Afghan civilians

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP)—A bomb hidden in a parked motorcycle exploded at a market in southern Afghanistan on Wednesday, killing four

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Rep. of Congo: 246 dead after arms depot blasts

BRAZZAVILLE, Republic of Congo (AP)—Morticians stacked bodies two to a tray at Brazzaville's main morgue Tuesday as state radio reported at least 246 people had died from two days of explosions at an armory that catapulted shells, rockets and other munitions into a densely populated area of the capital of the Republic of Congo. Police said international firefighters had brought the main blaze under control by Tuesday morning, and prevented it from spreading to a second munitions depot just 100 yards (meters) away. The second depot contains even heavier-caliber weapons, including Stalin's Organ multiple rocket launchers, a military source said, requesting anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to reporters.

Islamist sect suspected in killing of 6 in Nigeria

MAIDUGURI, Nigeria (AP)—Suspected gunmen from a radical Islamist sect stormed into the home Tuesday of the top customs official in northeast Nigeria, shooting the man dead only weeks after he took over the post, officials said. Another shooting blamed on the sect killed four Christians in the region. Customs controller Adamu Ahmadu had enforced strict new rules in the northeast that has seen trucks halted from crossing the border from neighboring Chad—one country where analysts and officials believe leaders of the radical sect known as Boko Haram now hide. Customs officials also had been intercepting arms in the region, likely drawing the sect's rage, officials said.

Biden tells CentAm US determined to defeat gangs

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—Vice President Joe Biden told Central American leaders that the United States is determined to defeat transnational gangs and continue funding an offensive against drug traffickers, but didn't publicly address the debate of drug legalization proposed in the region. Still, Central American presidents insisted they will talk about decriminalizing narcotics in a meeting scheduled in two weeks, according to a joint statement read after the meeting with Biden. Biden said the U.S. government has financially supported a regional security plan and is seeking more money to help Central American countries fight drug cartels, accused of causing a spike in murders.

Eastern Libya pulls away from central government

BENGHAZI, Libya (AP)—Tribal leaders and militia commanders declared oil-rich eastern Libya a semiautonomous state on Tuesday, a unilateral move that the interim head of state called a "dangerous" conspiracy by Arab nations to tear the country apart six months after the fall of Moammar Gadhafi.

Thousands of representatives of major tribes, militia commanders and politicians made the declaration at a conference in the main eastern city of Benghazi, insisting it was not intended to divide the country. They said they want their region to remain part of a united Libya, but needed to do this to stop decades of discrimination against the east.

The conference declared that the eastern state, known as Barqa, would have its own parliament, police force, courts and capital—Benghazi, the country's second largest city—to run its own affairs. Foreign policy, the national army and oil resources would be left to the central government in the capital Tripoli in western Libya. Barqa would cover nearly half the country, from the center to the Egyptian border in the east and down to the borders with Chad and Sudan in the south.

Mustafa Abdul-Jalil, head of



A Libyan man, wearing the colors of the pre-Gadhafi flag, weeps for his brother at a funeral in Benghazi, Libya, Monday, March 5, 2012 for victims buried in a mass grave.

the Tripoli-based interim central government known as the National Transitional Council, warned the declaration "leads to danger" of eventually breaking up the North African nation of 6 million. But he also said it was to be expected, because the east played a pivotal role in ending Gadhafi's rule.

"Some Arab nations, unfortunately, have supported and encouraged this to happen,"

he said, without naming any countries. "These nations are funding this kind of unacceptable strife," he added at a news conference in Tripoli. "What happened today is the beginning of a conspiracy against Libya and Libyans."

Asked by The Associated Press, Abdul-Jalil's office refused to specify which Arab nations were allegedly supporting division in Libya.

The interim leader has not in the past blamed any Arab nation for meddling, while praising Gulf nations like Qatar, which was supportive of the rebels fighting Gadhafi.

Abdul-Jalil appealed to Libyans for patience and resolve in the face of the country's mounting problems.

Fadl-Allah Haroun, a senior tribal figure and militia commander, said the declaration

aims for administrative independence, not separation.

"We are not talking about changing the flag or national anthem. We are talking about different administration, a parliament and managing the financial affairs," he said.

The east was the cradle of last year's uprising and civil war that ousted Gadhafi. In the early days of the revolt, the entire east came under opposition control and remained that way until Gadhafi fell in August. The eastern rebels set up the National Transitional Council, originally in Benghazi, which then moved to Tripoli and became the central government.

The goal for the east now is to revive the system in place from 1951 until 1963, when Libya, ruled by a monarchy, was divided into three states: Tripolitania in the west, Fezzan in the southwest and Cyrenaica in the east—or Barqa, as it was called in Arabic.

Easterners say the step is necessary to end the marginalization their region suffered for decades under Gadhafi's rule. The former dictator focused development and largesse on the west, allowing infrastructure to decline in the east, an area that was a constant source of opposition to the regime.

Obama: Diplomacy can stop Iran from getting bomb

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama declared Tuesday that diplomacy can still resolve the crisis over Iran's possible pursuit of nuclear weapons, and he accused his Republican critics of "beating the drums of war."

"Those folks don't have a lot of responsibilities," Obama said. "They are not commander in chief."

Tension with Iran, and Obama's preference for restraint, dominated his first full news conference of the year, held on the same day that Republican Super Tuesday voting was drawing attention as well.

On politics, Obama said that higher gasoline prices as a result of Mideast worries would be a bad idea for any president running for re-election, and he also said he was working to expand America's energy base.

He called violence in Syria "heartbreaking" but showed no new willingness for military involvement in that Mideast country.

Obama said his critics are forgetting the "cost of war" in their rush to punish Iran and defend Israel, which sees a nuclear Iran as a mortal threat in its Mideast neighborhood.

Rhetoric on the right is "more about politics than about trying to solve a difficult problem," Obama said.

He said he is focused on "crippling sanctions" already imposed on Iran and on international pres-

Israelis on Iran

How the Israeli people feel about an attack on Iran:

If the U.S. were involved

Support attack, without U.S. backing

19%

Endorse strike if there is U.S. support

42%

Do not strike

34%

If Israel stuck without U.S. approval, the U.S. would

Support, at least diplomatically

39%

Join the war on Israel's behalf

27%

How long do you think the war would last?

Days 18%

Months 29%

Years 22%

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Source: Dahaf Institute poll of 500 Israelis Feb. 22-26, 2012; margin of error: +/- 4 percentage points

sure to keep that nation from developing a nuclear weapon.

Obama said his private meetings with Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu this week carried the same message as his public pronouncements. And he implied that Israeli pressure for urgent action was not supported by the facts, saying that a decision was not necessary within the next

weeks or months.

He added that Iranians need to show how serious they are about resolving the crisis. He said there are steps the Iranians can take "that are verifiable" and will allow it to be "in compliance with international norms and mandates."

On gas prices, Obama dismissed as laughable the suggestion by some Republican critics that he actually wants increases.

He said no president facing re-election would want to see gas prices rise because of the hardship that would cause to American families, and that he's asking his attorney general to examine whether speculation in the oil markets is driving up oil prices.

In the past month, gasoline prices have risen by more than 28 cents per gallon, making gasoline the most expensive ever for this time of year. On Tuesday, the nationwide average for regular unleaded slipped less than a penny to \$3.764 per gallon, ending a string of price increases that began on Feb. 8.

On another political issue, Obama said Democrats will have a "better story" than Republicans to tell female voters in the November election.

The president said he does not believe women will be single-issue voters. But he says his party has the better plan for women on everything from housing to education.

Security Council mulls proposed Syria resolution

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Key U.N. Security Council members began discussing a possible new resolution Tuesday that demands an end to the violence in Syria, first by government forces and then by opposition fighters, in hopes of overcoming opposition from Russia and China.

Russia and China have vetoed two previous council resolutions, saying they were unbalanced and only demanded that the government stop attacks, not the opposition. Moscow, which has taken the lead, accused Western powers of fueling the conflict by backing the rebels.

The new draft resolution, proposed by the United States and obtained by The Associated Press, tries to take a more balanced approach in an effort to get Russia and China on board, but it was unclear if the new language would be sufficient to satisfy them.

It was discussed behind closed doors by the five permanent council members—the U.S., Russia, China, Britain and France—along with Morocco, the Arab representative on the council.

U.S. Ambassador Susan Rice appeared downbeat as she left the meeting, telling reporters: "I don't think you should expect anything specific."

In a statement later, Rice said the discussions focused on "whether there is any possibility of reaching agreement around

a potential text that would demand an end to the violence in Syria and demand immediate humanitarian access."

Her statement made clear that Western supporters of a U.N. resolution don't want to formally introduce the U.S. draft if it's going to face a third veto.

"If and when it seems there is a basis for a meaningful and viable text, we will propose one to the full Security Council," Rice said.

She said there would be further talks but gave no date.

Tuesday's elections in Russia, which returned Vladimir Putin to the presidency, dampened hopes Moscow would soften its stance on Syria.

Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov defended his country's position on Syria, its closest Mideast ally, and told reporters in Moscow on Tuesday that the council should "seek compromise, stimulate negotiations and a political process."

After Tuesday's closed discussion of the U.S. draft, Russia's U.N. ambassador had no comment. China's U.N. Ambassador Li Baodong, asked about a new resolution, said "we are still working on that."

Morocco's U.N. envoy Mohammed Loulichki called the atmosphere "promising," but added that no date has been set for another meeting on the draft.

Focus

BENGHAZI, Libya (AP)—A large map of Libya hangs on the wall in the home of Idris al-Rahel, with a line down the middle dividing the country in half.

Al-Rahel, a former army officer, leads a movement to declare virtual autonomy in eastern Libya, where most of the country's oil fields are located. The region's top tribal leaders meet Tuesday in the east's main city Benghazi to consider unilaterally announcing an eastern state, linked to the west only by a tenuous "federal union."

Opponents fear a declaration of autonomy could be the first step toward outright dividing the country. But some easterners say they are determined to end the domination and discrimination by the west that prevailed under strongman Moammar Gadhafi.

Al-Rahel points to the capital Tripoli on the map, in the west. "All troubles came from here," he said, "but we will not permit this to happen again."

The move shows how six months after Gadhafi's fall, the central government in Libya has proved incapable of governing at all. Other countries that shed their leaders in the Arab Spring revolts—Egypt, Tunisia and Yemen—are going through rocky transitions, but none has seen a collapse of central authority like Libya. The collapse has only worsened as cities, towns, regions, militias and tribes all act on their own, setting up their independent power centers.

After liberation from the rule of Gadhafi, Libyans dreamed their country of 6 million could become another Dubai—a state with a small population, flush with petro-dollars, that is a magnet for investment. Now they worry that it is turning more into another Somalia, a nation that has had no effective government for more than 20 years.

Libya may not face literal fragmentation, but it could be doomed to years of instability as it recovers from four decades of rule under Gadhafi, who pitted neighbor against neighbor, town against town and tribe against tribe. The resentment and bitterness he incubated is now bursting forth in general lawlessness.

"What Gadhafi left in Libya for 40 years is a very, very heavy heritage," said Mustafa Abdul-Jalil, head of the National Transitional Council, which in theory rules Libya but doesn't even hold sway in the capital Tripoli. "It's ... hard to get over it in one or two years or even five years."

Signs of the government's weakness are everywhere.

Tripoli remains under the control of various revolutionaries-turned-militiamen, who have resisted calls to integrate into a national army.

Kufra, deep in the deserts of the south, is a battleground for two rival tribes, one Arab and one African, who killed dozens in two weeks of fighting last month.

And Misrata, the country's third-largest city and just two hours' drive east of the capital, effectively rules itself, with its militias ignoring government pleas and exacting brutal revenge on anyone they believe to have supported Gadhafi.

At a Misrata garage that has been turned by militiamen into a makeshift prison, one detainee, Abdel-Qader Abdel-Nabi, shows what remains of his



Libyan men, one waving a pre-Gadhafi flag, attend a funeral in Benghazi, Libya, Monday, March 5, 2012 for victims buried in a mass grave. AP

Freed of Gadhafi, Libya's instability only deepens

By **MAGGIE MICHAEL**

Associated Press

left hand: The fingers have been cut off in a ragged line about halfway down. Abdel-Nabi said militiamen lashed his hand with a horse whip until the fingers were severed.

"Then they threw me bleeding down the stairs," he said. His interrogators were trying to get him to confess to working with Gadhafi's forces during last year's civil war and collaborating in the killing of rebel fighters.

Around 800 other detainees are held in the same facility, which militiamen allowed The Associated Press to visit. The detainees are accused of involvement in killings, torture, rape and other crimes under Gadhafi. There are no courts at the moment capable of addressing the suspicions, so the detainees are entirely at the mercy of militiamen.

Medics in a clinic set up in the garage said they have treated dozens tortured in interrogations. One medic said he had seen nine prisoners whose genitalia had been cut off, and others given electric shocks. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he feared retaliation by the militiamen.

Misrata was one of the few major cities in the west to rise up against Gadhafi last year, and paid for it with a months-long, devastating siege by regime forces. After repelling the assault, its militias joined the final march on Tripoli that captured the capital and brought down Gadhafi in August. It was Misrata militiamen who found Gadhafi in his final stronghold, the city of Sirte, and killed him in October.

Now the city seems determined to decide its own fate, creating a de facto self-rule. Last month, it held its own elections for a new city council, after forcing out a self-appointed council



formed in the uprising which came to be seen as corrupt and ineffective.

In the isolated southeastern town of Kufra, 600 miles (990 kilometers) from Benghazi, fighters from the powerful Zwia Arab tribe have besieged the African Tabu tribe in a battle for the past two weeks.

The Tabu, an ethnic minority indigenous to the area, were heavily suppressed under Gadhafi. After Gadhafi's fall, the National Transitional Council assigned the Tabu to police the nearby borders with Chad and Sudan to stop smuggling—a trade dominated by the Zwia.

The Tabu say fighting erupted Feb. 11, after a Zwia smuggler killed six Tabu border guards. The Zwia in turn say the Tabu attacked them in an attempt to declare their own state in the area, which the Tabu deny.

Zwia, backed by tanks and armored vehicles, took control of the streets and entrances to the town of 700,000, battling with Tabu gunmen. They surrounded the main Tabu district, where

an Associated Press reporter saw widespread damage to homes from rockets.

The district's tiny, three-room hospital was packed with the injured, with only one doctor and 15 nurses. Empty water bottles were being used as blood bags. The doctor, Tarek Abu Bakr, said he has recorded 54 people killed. One Tabu leader, Eissa Abdel-Majed, put the toll at more than 100.

After two weeks of fighting, independent militias in the region finally mediated a tenuous truce. Authorities in Tripoli could do nothing, despite bluster about sending troops to separate the sides.

The violence highlights the weakness of the National Transitional Council, made up of representatives from around the country. The Council is overseeing the transition to democracy after Gadhafi's fall, including the organizing of elections set for June. But besides having little ability to enforce decisions, it has been mired in its own divisions.

NTC chief Abdul-Jalil, a former reform-minded justice minister under Gadhafi, was largely welcomed as a clean and well-intentioned figure. But many feel he is not providing strong enough leadership.

Mohammed Ali, a politician who works closely with Abdul-Jalil, described his style as that of a boxing referee. "He stands on the side watching to see who wins, then raises his hand to declare him victorious," said Ali.

A frustrated Abdul-Jalil admitted mistakes. "But democracy is the reason," he told AP. "In every single decision, I have to get the vote" of 72 Council members.

The Council's attempts to put to-

gether a law governing the election are weeks behind schedule. It has put forward three drafts, each met by a storm of criticism from various factions that forced a rewrite. The election is to choose a 200-member assembly tasked with writing a new constitution and forming a government.

The drafts allocate about 60 seats for the east, compared to 102 for the west, because the drafters say the breakdown reflects the larger population in the west. But for angry easterners, it smacks of the years of discrimination under Gadhafi, who focused development in the west while largely neglecting the east and its main city, Benghazi.

The east was long a center of opposition to Gadhafi, the source of failed coups and assassination attempts against him—and Gadhafi punished it by depriving its cities of funds for services, health care and schools. However, the east, with its oil fields, is also the source of the vast majority of Libya's revenue.

"The westerners have been milking us like a cow," said al-Rahel. "They built towers, airports and hotels while we were deprived of everything."

Benghazi was the first city to shed Gadhafi's rule last year, and the entire east quickly followed. But after his death, the National Transitional Council moved from Benghazi to the capital, and formed an interim Cabinet dominated by figures from the west.

The fight is also fueling a movement to revive a federal system that existed in Libya under the monarchy before it was toppled in the 1967 coup led by Gadhafi. Under that system, Libya was divided into three states, Tripolitania in the west, Fezzan in the southwest and Cyrenaica—or Barqa, as it was called in Arabic—which encompassed the eastern half of the country.

Al-Rahel's National Federal Union movement calls for a return to that system, giving each region its own capital, parliament, police and courts. Al-Rahel cites the American model of states and a federal government.

On Tuesday, at a gathering of about 3,000 easterners in Benghazi, planners aim to announce the creation of Barqa state and call for other regions to follow in forming a federal system, said Abu Bakr Baaira, a co-founder of the group. He dismissed worries the move will break Libya apart and said Barqa would seek U.N. backing if Tripoli refuses.

"Are the U.S., Switzerland and Germany divided?" he said. "We hope they don't force us to a new war and new bloodshed. This is the last thing we look for."

Easterners have already formed their army, the Barqa Supreme Military Council, made up of revolutionary fighters who rose up to battle Gadhafi last year. Their commander, Col. Hamid al-Hassi, said his forces are now willing to fight for autonomy if Tripoli doesn't grant it.

"Even if we had to take over the oil fields by deploying our forces there or risk another war, we will not hesitate for the sake of Barqa," he told AP.

A spokesman for the Tripoli government, Ashour Shamis, said the NTC rejects the plan, and instead backs a decentralization that would give considerable authority to local city or district governments but preserve a strong central government.

Environment

Don't rule out fruit trees, even in a small garden

By WILLIAM HAGEMAN
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Everybody likes fruit, but some gardeners may be reluctant to plant an apple or peach tree, preferring to play it safe with some tomatoes or peppers. That's who Colby Eierman had in mind when he wrote *Fruit Trees in Small Spaces: Abundant Harvests from Your Own Backyard* (Timber Press).

"I thought of the gardener who has been growing vegetables in the backyard," Eierman said, "and is ready to make that step to perennial fruit."

Gardeners may be handicapped by their lack of knowledge of fruit. Eierman includes far more varieties than a consumer will find in a supermarket, where easy-to-ship trumps taste. This was his way of helping gardeners make a choice.

"Some folks just aren't going to be able to grow citrus, but there's a lot of great apples out there that will work," he says. "I've been so enriched in my life, growing plants in general and trees specifically, I'd like to help people start on their own journey."

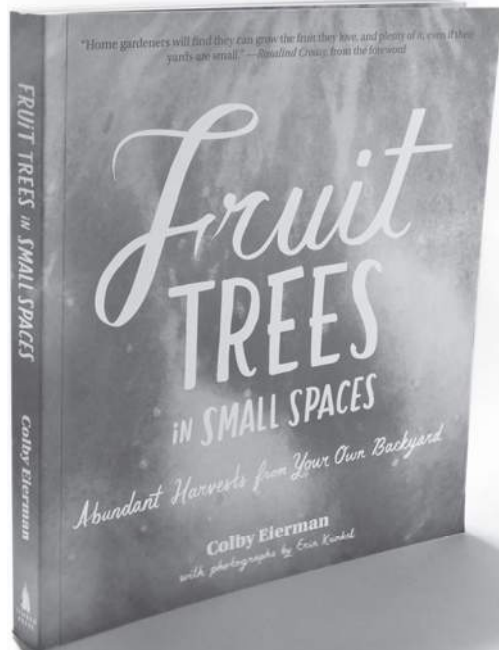
The book talks about turning your yard into a small orchard, growing fruit trees in pots, what works, what doesn't, and even includes recipes.

Q: How is growing fruit different from other plants?

A: You're thinking about the long term from the start. With fruit trees, the main reason you plant is to give you fruit, and that may not come for five years. Take the time to choose the right variety, do a lot of research, and hopefully make the right decision.

Q: How long before you can get fruit?

A: Depends on your climate. If you can plant a bare-root tree in a small space in the winter, (a tree that's) 2 to 3 years old, that's potentially going to set some fruit (quickly). It's OK to let that



BILL HOGAN/CHICAGO TRIBUNE/MCT
Colby Eierman thinks of the home gardener who may shy away from growing their own fruit with *Fruit Trees in Small Spaces*.

produce a few pieces of fruit in the first year and get a chance to taste what that variety is.

With a larger tree, the first couple of years, trim all that fruit when it's, say, nickel size in diameter, and let the tree focus its energy on (its) structure, the branches, root system. Then two to three years in, let more fruit ripen.

Q: What about fruit trees being messy?

A: I don't see it as an issue, (but) there's a lot we can do. There are things we can do with netting. The nice thing about small trees and keeping them small is that they're easier to protect and eliminate that sort of pressure. You also have to choose the

right variety. Having a plum tree over your sidewalk, it's going to drop fruit. If that's not what you want, that's not where you should put that tree.

Q: How adventurous can or should a gardener be in choosing trees?

A: Balance is the right word. My suggestion is to start with something you know you like to eat, because that will motivate you to make this succeed. That will be tempered against what you can grow, of course. I'm not going to suggest to someone in North Dakota to grow grapefruit. But maybe it could lead them to where someday they have a greenhouse for citrus. Also, identify which historically grows well in the area—go to the farmers market, see what they're producing, talk to the farmers ... and see what we can be successful with. Then branch out from there.

Q: Pruning is crucial. Is it easy to become a passable "expert"?

A: The best way to learn is to get out there and do it. I found most folks fall on the spectrum as aggressive or timid pruners. I think we could all move a little toward the middle.

I love pruning. It's a really nice time out in the garden. One of the exciting things about growing fruit trees in small spaces, you can pretty much prune whenever you want, when you notice something. People think it's something done in winter, it's frosty out ... but if you're trying to reduce (a plant's) size and keep it in a smaller area, summer pruning is the way to go.

In winter, with no leaves, you have to imagine what the tree will look like. But in the summer you can see how the sun is hitting the fruit, you can prune off what is blocking that light. You're taking some of the tree's resources, but left to their own devices, trees get much bigger than we need. Small trees pruned in the summer are just a great addition to the landscape.

Flat fruit trees produce abundant harvest in narrow space

By BETHANN STEWART
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

BOISE, Idaho—Part science and part sculpture, Bob Crum's fruit trees look like delicate relatives of their cousins in nearby orchards.

That's intentional.

"I've tinkered with this for a long time," he said of his espaliers. "The thing about espalier is it's a work in progress. You can make your own shape. All it takes is time." Espalier (es-pahl-yer or es-pahl-yay) is a method of training trees to grow in two dimensions in an ornamental design, often against a wall, but the trees also can be attached to free-standing trellises, like Crum's.

George Washington's estate, Mount Vernon, has some of the oldest espaliers in the United States.

Colonists brought the technique with them from Europe, where gardeners in northern France and England had trained fruit trees to grow against walls.

The walls retained heat and helped the trees produce fruit in climates too cold for traditional orchards.

Crum grew up in Nampa and graduated from Nampa High in 1942. He served in World War II and went on to a career making and teaching dental prosthetics at universities in Chicago.

After retiring to Florida, Crum began experimenting with his orange and grapefruit trees.

The grapefruits proved to be too heavy for the thin lateral branches of the espalier.

"It's a unique way to do things," he said. "It doesn't require a lot of space and it's fun." Crum moved back to the Gem State six years ago to be near his daughter, who lives in Boise.

In his garden in Eagle, he's growing five espaliers. Three are grafted apple trees that produce Golden Delicious, Red Macintosh, Gala and Gravensteins. One espalier is a Golden Delicious tree and the other is a cherry tree that produces Bing, Royal Ann, Rainier and Vans.

He bought the stock at Fruitland Nursery, which has been carrying espaliers for about 15



Robert Crum, of Eagle, Idaho, wanted to plant fruit trees using the espalier method, which allows tree limbs to grow only along support cables on a single plane, and theoretically improves the fruit yield. But the real advantage is the trees take very little space especially when grown flat against a wall in a tight corridor.

years, said nursery manager Larry Parks.

"Typically, they're multi-variety trees so people can get a variety of fruit, not one big harvest," he said. "It's more of a hobby tree than a production tree." Maintaining an espalier's decorative design requires some handiwork. The tree wants to grow vertically, and any shoots that compete with the design have to be pruned.

And it's also best not to let the tree bear fruit until the branches on either side of the trunk are 3 to 4 feet long, which also requires more pruning, said Anju Lucas, perennial manager at Edwards Greenhouse in Boise, which carries espaliers.

"It's not for the faint of heart," she said. "Anything that dwarf will take an incredible amount of fussing." For Crum, it's a labor of love.

Top 7 ways to be green from head to toe

By TERRI BENNETT
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Being fashionably green is about more than just what you wear. It's also about the other things we put on our bodies such as sunscreen and even shampoo. Here are my Top 7 Ways to be Green from Head to Toe so you can Do Your Part while looking good.

1) PICK SAFER PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS

Many personal care products contain untested chemicals and estrogen mimicking preservatives like paraben. Some ingredients can't even be found on the ingredient list because they're hidden under the term "fragrance." Visit CosmeticDatabase.org to easily find what's in all the products you use and how they compare to others available on store shelves.

2) BUY BETTER MAKE-UP

There's nothing pretty about what could be lurking in your favorite blush, lipstick, or eyeliner. Some brands actually contain mercury, lead, or chemicals that are known to cause everything from cancer to reproductive problems. Again, CosmeticDatabase.org is a good place to start researching the products you use. You can search by specific brands and product names.

3) BE A RESALE SHOP REGULAR

Resale shops are the perfect places to get a steal of a deal on gently used clothing, shoes, and accessories. There are specific chains that specialize in all kids' clothing and you can sell back what your children have outgrown. And don't forget your local Goodwill. Many locations are being updated to look like department stores and you can put together a complete look for an unbelievable price.

4) RENT HIGH FASHION CLOTHES & ACCESSORIES

You know the problem with trendy clothes and accessories. One day they're in and the next day they're out. Consider renting instead of spending top dollar for items that will be used occasionally. Go to DoYourPart.com/Columns to see my favorite rental sites. <http://www.weartodaygonetomorrow.com/Default.asp>

5) OPT FOR ORGANIC COTTON

Make a fashion statement by opting for organic cotton. Twenty-five percent of all insecticides and 10 percent of all pesticides are used on conventionally grown cotton. That doesn't even account for all the chemicals used in the manufacturing process. Organic cotton clothing may cost you a little bit more but it is almost always softer and makes a big green fashion statement.

6) SHOP FOR SAFER SUNSCREEN

Your best bet when picking sunscreens is to buy ones that contain zinc and titanium. The Environmental Working Group (EWG) recommends avoiding oxybenzone because it is suspected of altering hormonal systems. The EWG has an online sunscreen guide (<http://breakingnews.ewg.org/2011/sunscreen/>) that rates hundreds of sunscreens by safety and tells you what's the best and what's the worst. They also have a free smart phone app.

7) GIVE BACK

When you're no longer wearing what's in your closet, do some good with it all. Soles4Souls (<http://www.soles4souls.org/>) collects gently used shoes for people in need around the world. Goodwill takes all kinds of clothing to sell in order to raise money for job training programs. And, Dress For Success (<http://www.dressforsuccess.org/>) wants business appropriate clothing for women in need who are going on job interviews.

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, eco-expert and author of *Do Your Part: A practical guide for everyday green living available at DoYourPart.com*. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com

Life & Style

'Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious' composer dies

LONDON (AP)—How do you sum up the work of songwriter Robert B. Sherman? Try one word: "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious."

The tongue-twisting term, sung by magical nanny Mary Poppins, is like much of Sherman's work—both complex and instantly memorable, for child and adult alike. Once heard, it was never forgotten.

Sherman, an American who died in London at age 86, was half of a sibling partnership that put songs into the mouths of nannies and Cockney chimney sweeps, jungle animals and Parisian felines.

Robert Sherman and his brother Richard composed scores for films including "The Jungle Book," "The Aristocats," "Mary Poppins" and "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang." They also wrote the most-played tune on Earth, "It's a Small World (After All)."

Sherman's agent, Stella Richards, said Tuesday that Sherman died peacefully in London on Monday.

Son Jeffrey Sherman paid tribute to his father on Facebook, saying he "wanted to bring happiness to the world and, unquestionably, he succeeded."

Jeffrey Sherman told The Associated Press that his father had learned the craft of songwriting from his own father, Tin Pan Alley composer Al Sherman.

"His rule in writing songs was keep it singable, simple and sincere," Jeffrey Sherman said. "In the simplest things you find something universal."

Robert Sherman knew another truth, his son said: "What seems so simple is really very complex."

"He was a very simple

guy—complex but simple. If you ever want to know about my Dad, listen to the lyrics of his songs."

Robert A. Iger, president and CEO of The Walt Disney Co., said in a statement that the company mourned the loss of "one of the world's greatest songwriters and a true Disney legend." Three Broadway marquees—including The New Amsterdam Theatre, where "Mary Poppins" is playing—were to dim their lights Tuesday night in Sherman's honor.

The Sherman Brothers' career was long, prolific and garlanded with awards. They won two Academy Awards for Walt Disney's 1964 smash "Mary Poppins"—best score and best song, "Chim Chim Cher-ee." They also picked up a Grammy for best movie or TV score.

Their hundreds of credits as joint lyricist and composer also include the films "Winnie the Pooh," "The Slipper and the Rose," "Snoopy Come Home," "Charlotte's Web" and "The Magic of Lassie." Their Broadway musicals included 1974's "Over Here!" and stagings of "Mary Poppins" and "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" in the mid-2000s.

"Something good happens when we sit down together and work," Richard Sherman told The Associated Press in a 2005 joint interview. "We've been doing it all our lives. Practically since college we've been working together."

The brothers' awards included 23 gold and platinum albums and a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. They became the only Americans ever to win First Prize at the Moscow Film Festival for "Tom Sawyer" in 1973 and were inducted into



AP
In this April, 5, 1965 file photo actress Debbie Reynolds poses with Academy awards winners for best music Richard M. Sherman, right and Robert Sherman, left, who received the award for Mary Poppins in Santa Monica Calif.

the Songwriters' Hall of Fame in 2005.

President George W. Bush awarded them the National Medal of Arts in 2008, commended for music that "has helped bring joy to millions."

Alan Menken, composer of scores for Disney films including "The Little Mermaid," "Beauty and the Beast" and "Aladdin," said the Sherman brothers' legacy "goes far beyond the craft of songwriting."

"There is a magic in their songs and in the films and musicals they breathed life into," he said Tuesday.

Robert Bernard Sherman was born in New York on Dec. 19, 1925, and raised there and in Beverly Hills, California.

The brothers credited their father with challenging them to write songs and for their

love of lyrics. Al Sherman's legacy of songs includes "You Gotta Be a Football Hero," "(What Do We Do On a) Dew-Dew-Dewy Day" and "On the Beach at Bali-Bali."

Robert Sherman's affection for Britain was nurtured during his service with the U.S. Army in World War II. One of the first American soldiers to enter the Dachau concentration camp—and, his son said, the only Jewish serviceman there—he was shot in the knee in Germany in 1945.

Recovering in hospitals in England, he developed a fondness for and familiarity with the country that stuck with him. He wrote for British characters in "Mary Poppins," "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" and "Winnie the Pooh," and spent the last years of his life in London.

After the war, the brothers started writing songs together. They began a decade-long partnership with Disney during the 1960s after having written hit pop songs like "Tall Paul" for ex-Mouseketeer Annette Funicello and "You're Sixteen," later recorded by Ringo Starr.

Though they were estranged for a number of years, the brothers never completely broke ties. When asked about that, Richard Sherman said: "We're human. We have frailties and weaknesses. But we love each other very much, respect each other."

They wrote over 150 songs at Disney, including the soundtracks for such films as "The Sword and the Stone," "The Parent Trap," "Bedknobs and Broomsticks," "The Jungle Book," "The Aristocats" and "The Tiger Movie."

Most of the songs the Shermans wrote—in addition to being catchy and playful—work on multiple levels for different ages, something they learned from Disney.

"He once told us, early on in our career, 'Don't insult the kid—don't write down to the kid. And don't write just for the adult.' So we write for grandpa and the 4-year-old—and everyone in between—and all see it on a different level," Richard Sherman said.

The Shermans teased songs out of each other, brainstorming titles and then trying to top each other with improvements. "Being brothers, we sort of short-cut each other," Richard Sherman said. "We can almost look at each other and know, 'Hey, you're onto something, kiddo.'"

Most of their songs were written quickly, but others took longer. The pair spent

two weeks trying to nail down a snappy title for a song sung by the nanny in "Mary Poppins." They considered, and then nixed, "An Apple a Day" and "A Stitch in Time."

"Nothing was coming," Robert Sherman recalled. Then one day his then-8-year-old son came home from school. "I said, 'How was school?' He said, 'Great. We got the (polio) vaccine today.' I said, 'Oh, did it hurt?' He said, 'No, they just stuck medicine on a lump of sugar.' I went, 'Ohhhh!' That was it!"

"He came in the next day all glassy-eyed," Richard Sherman recalled. The final lyric would become world famous when it emerged from the lips of Julie Andrews: "A spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down."

Another of their songs—"It's a Small World (After All)"—has become one of the most translated and performed songs on the planet. It plays on a continual, multilingual loop every few minutes at Disney theme parks across the world—a fact that Disney employees are only too well aware of.

"We've driven teenagers crazy in every language," quipped Robert Sherman.

Away from the piano, the two raised families and pursued their own interests, yet still lived close to each other in Beverly Hills and continued working together well into their 70s. When "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" came to Broadway in 2005, they added new lyrics and four new songs.

Robert Sherman moved to Britain in 2002 after the death of his wife Joyce. He is survived by his brother and four children: Laurie, Jeffrey, Andrea and Robert.

Prince Harry runs with Usain Bolt in Jamaica

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)—It wasn't much of a race, but then it really couldn't have been as the world's fastest man and Britain's Prince Harry met up on a track Tuesday in the Jamaican capital.

Wearing a track suit emblazoned with Jamaica's colors of green, black and gold, the prince got off to a false start and was about 50 meters down the track as Usain Bolt bent over with laughter. The Olympic medalist then jogged up to a grinning Harry, making one of his signature skyward points for a crowd of onlookers at the University of the West Indies in the Jamaican capital.

Harry then joined Bolt for a few pointing poses to an appreciative crowd.

Later, the two exchanged pleasantries and talked about running for a small audience, including many athletes. The

prince noted Jamaica's international reputation as a track and field powerhouse and said it was impressive for a small nation of nearly 3 million.

"Don't go running off to America because you have a clear talent your country needs," he told a group of up-and-coming Jamaican athletes as he sat beside Bolt.

Harry is touring the Caribbean as part of a Diamond Jubilee tour in honor of Queen Elizabeth II as she celebrates 60 years on the throne. The 27-year-old prince, who made earlier stops in the Bahamas and Belize, arrived by private jet and received a 21-gun salute from members of the Jamaica Defense Force.

Harry also met with the new prime minister, Portia Simpson Miller, who repeated her position that Jamaica should sever ties with the British monarchy after a

lighthearted lunch with Harry and several guests at a 19th-century Georgian-style mansion. Jamaica has been independent from Britain since 1962 but still recognizes the queen of England as the titular head of state.

"This is just another phase in our political history," she told reporters after the lunch, without offering a deadline for a possible change.

Though many older Jamaicans are fond of the woman affectionately known as "Mrs. Queen," pro-republic sentiment on the island has increased in recent years. Simpson Miller said that many Jamaicans were behind the move to replace the queen and instead adopt a republican form of government.

But she stressed that Jamaica would continue to have very close ties with Britain and that she harbored no bad feelings to-



AP
Britain's Prince Harry is first out of the blocks against Olympic sprint champion Usain Bolt, Tuesday March 6 2012 at a mock race at the University of the West Indies, in Jamaica.

ward the queen.

"She is so warm. We're all in love with her," she said. Minutes before, she quipped that she was charmed also by Harry, telling reporters: "We might not let him go."

About a decade ago, former Prime Minister P.J. Patterson made a similar call to replace

the queen but the effort fizzled amid political bickering. In 2002, Jamaica's Parliament moved to sever ties with its former ruler by changing its oath of allegiance from the queen to the Jamaican constitution.

The change to a republican form of government requires a public referendum and amend-

ing Jamaica's constitution.

Harry arrived for their lunch in a black Range Rover under heavy security. The two embraced and warmly chatted on the steps of the Devon House mansion, where they ate citrus salad with mango dressing, jerked pork, curried coconut shrimp and Jamaica's Blue Mountain coffee.

In an interview Thursday with The Associated Press, Simpson Miller said political change is necessary to eliminate the vestiges of colonialism.

"I think the fact that August coming will be 50 years since we have gained our independence, that it's time for us to sever the ties," she had said.

At the track stadium, though, there was nothing but enthusiasm for the prince, especially among the young women in the crowd. Female university students waved enthusiastically and cheered for him, calling for him to come out of his motorcade.

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Dr. Seuss' The Lorax

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:30
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:30
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Zac Efron, Taylor Swift
 Children's/Family • Rated PG

Synopsis

Dr. Seuss' heaviest environmentally themed tale gets adapted for young filmgoers with this computer-animated 3-D feature from Universal Pictures and Illumination Entertainment.



Project X

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:35
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20	

Thomas Mann, Jonathan Brown
 Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis

The Hangover's Todd Phillips produces this top-secret comedy from writers Matt Drake and Michael Bacall, with helming duties handled by commercial director Nima Nourizadeh.



Act of Valor

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Emilio Rivera, Roselyn Sanchez
 Adventure, Action • Rated R



Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:45
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday thru Thursday		4:05	7:05	

Nicolas Cage, Ciarán Hinds, Violante Placido
 Action • Rated PG 13



This Means War

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday thru Thursday		4:25	7:25	

Reese Witherspoon, Chris Pine
 Comedy • Rated PG 13



Journey2: Mysterious Island

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:55
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Monday thru Thursday		4:15	7:15	

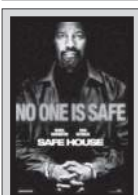
The Rock, Venessa Hudgens, Michael Caine
 Adventure • Rated PG



Gone

Friday		7:30		
Saturday	1:30	7:30		
Sunday	1:30	7:30		
Monday thru Thursday		7:30		

Amanda Seyfried, Sebastian Stan
 Suspense, Thriller • Rated PG 13



Safe House

Friday		4:30	9:50	
Saturday		4:30	9:50	
Sunday		4:30		
Monday thru Thursday		4:30		

Denzel Washington, Ryan Reynolds
 Spy film, Thriller • Rated R

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Young violin prodigy, now award-winning fundraiser

NEW YORK (AP)—He is a violin prodigy who has channeled his musical talents to raise more than \$5 million for pediatric medical research around the globe, headlining benefit concerts at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and other venues.

Jourdan Urbach was honored for his achievement on Tuesday with one of the nation's highest public service awards—the Jefferson Awards.

The 20-year-old resident of the Long Island community of Roslyn founded Concerts for a Cure when he was only 7 years old. Since then, he has raised \$5.1 million to fight children's neurological diseases and fund research. Through benefit concerts, he has funded 12 life-saving neurosurgeries, 1,000 cochlear implants, pediatric clinics in Africa and El Salvador and a bedside music program at the University of Michigan's Mott Children's Hospital.

He was among four Americans 25 years and under to be recognized as a Jefferson Awards "Globe Changer," said Sam Beard, who founded the awards known as "the Nobel Prize for public service" with Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and U.S. Sen. Robert Taft Jr. in 1972.

"He's 20 years old and he's basically transformed the way hospitals raise money," said Beard, adding he has never seen someone so young raise so much money.

The Jefferson "Globe Changer" also was awarded to Rachel Okun, 16, and her 13-year-old sister Kelsi, of McLean, Va., for their ThanksUSA project that raised \$7.5 million in scholarships for children of military veterans. Charles OrgBon III, 16, of Hoschton, Ga., was recognized for his Greening Forward initiative, which has recycled more than 8,000 tons of waste around the world.

Winning the Jefferson Award is "a massive honor," Urbach said in a telephone interview a day before the awards ceremony.

It is a recognition young people don't expect to get "and when we do, it's a vote of confidence that often helps us out down the line with our further endeavors," said Urbach, a music composition major at Yale who will play his own work at the ceremony.

"He's passionate about the kids who have neurological diseases," Beard said. "He figured he had musical talent and if he could combine it with his goals he could make a difference."

Urbach showed a passion for music and science at an early age. He began playing violin at 2 1/2. In 1st grade, he wrote a letter to Dr. Fred Epstein, the late pre-eminent pediatric neurosurgeon at Beth Israel Hospital in Manhattan, requesting an



AP

Jourdan Urbach rehearses at the Pierre Hotel prior to a ceremony where he will receive the nation's highest public service awards, the Jefferson Awards, Tuesday, March 6, 2012 in New York.

interview for a paper he wanted to write on neurosurgeons.

The doctor invited him to the hospital and gave him a tour of the intensive care unit.

"That completely flipped my view of the world," said Urbach. "All I wanted to do is bring those patients something that was beyond those walls."

He recalled turning to Epstein and saying: "I'm going to help your kids."

So the doctor suggested that the 7-year-old bring some friends and perform for his patients. He did, first performing in a hospital playroom and later going room to room playing for bedridden patients.

Urbach said Concerts for

a Cure started its fundraising activities two years later after he met a 13-year-old patient, a pianist who couldn't practice because there was no piano on the hospital floor.

"I set a goal. I was going to buy a piano for the 10th floor," he said. "I put on a concert at my school. We raised enough money to buy a piano and thousands more, enough to start a fund to bring underprivileged kids from all over the world to have surgery at Beth Israel."

At the C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Michigan, Urbach's concert raised money for a Ronald McDonald space within the hospital and for its bedside music program that provides

live music in the neonatal units, said Elaine Sims, director of the Gifts of Art program at the University of Michigan Health System.

"Another grant from Jourdan is funding a music delivery system for our pediatric oncology inpatients," she said. "The funds Jourdan has raised for us have inspired others to give. It's a cumulative snowball effect that just keeps growing."

About three years ago, Urbach founded another nonprofit organization, the International Coalition of College Philanthropists, which raises money through various campus events for health, education and shelter projects.

ICCP "allows university students to leverage a network of students and college campuses to raise a lot of funds ... and then intelligently inject them into microfinance projects," said Urbach. In its first year, the organization donated \$40,000 to build a clinic in Ghana, fund a Connecticut chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis Society and finance several Third World projects, including education for 20 children in rural India, he said.

In addition to raising money for neuroscience, Urbach delves deeply into the subject, said Arney Rosenblat, a spokeswoman for the MS Society. In 2005, she said, he conducted independent research on multiple sclerosis at Stony Brook University Medical Center.

"Jourdan has dramatically illustrated that a small hinge can swing large doors," she said.

The awards also honored Eagles defensive back Troy Vincent for outstanding service by an athlete.

The Lifetime Achievement Award went to the Tribeca Film Festival, co-founded by Robert DeNiro, Jane Rosenthal and Craig Hatkoff.

Pfizer was awarded the Jefferson Award for outstanding service by a major corporation.

Chef Paula Deen's attorneys say accusations false

SAVANNAH, Georgia (AP)—Attorneys for Paula Deen said Tuesday that a former worker who claimed she was sexually harassed and subjected to a hostile work environment at a restaurant co-owned by Deen and her brother made false claims after the celebrity chef refused to pay her to keep quiet.

A lawsuit filed Monday by Lisa Jackson "makes false allegations against Paula Deen and they will be proven false in court," said a statement from the Oliver Maner law firm, representing Deen. The law firm said the suit was filed in a local court after the Southern cooking star refused to pay the woman to "address false claims."

Attorneys for Jackson, a former general manager at the restaurant, didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment. Jackson said in the lawsuit that her doctor encouraged her to quit her post at Uncle Bubba's Seafood and Oyster House in Savannah because she suffered from panic attacks and other stress. The restaurant is owned by Deen and her brother Bubba Hiers.

Jackson said in the lawsuit that her doctor encouraged her to quit her post at Uncle Bubba's Seafood and Oyster House in Savannah because she suffered from panic attacks and other stress. The restaurant is owned by Deen and her brother Bubba Hiers.

Jackson, who is white, was hired at the restaurant in February 2005 and within months was promoted to general manager. Jackson said in the lawsuit that Hiers routinely made inappropriate sexual and racial remarks and that she heard both Hiers and Deen use racial slurs.

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Jackson said in the lawsuit that Hiers routinely made inappropriate sexual and racial remarks and that she heard both Hiers and Deen use racial slurs.

The woman also said in the suit that she saw Hiers violently shake a black employee and that he fostered a workplace environment of intimidation.

Deen's law firm said they had investigated Jackson's claims and had unsuccessfully attempted to address them with her.

"She has made baseless, inflammatory allegations, threatening to go to the press and ruin Paula Deen's reputation and the reputation of her businesses unless we paid her a large sum of money," the firm's statement said. "We refused to bow to that kind of pressure and refused to pay money to address false claims."

Jackson's lawsuit, filed in Chatham County Superior Court, seeks unspecified damages.

Brooks leads 2012 Country Music Hall of Fame class

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Garth Brooks' induction to the Country Music Hall of Fame caps one of the most astounding and important music careers in American history. At 50, though, Brooks isn't done yet.

He's one of the hall's youngest living inductees and might be a few short years from launching the second phase of a career that forced country music into the national consciousness and sold more albums than Michael Jackson.

He joins singer Connie Smith and keyboard player Hargus "Pig" Robbins as this year's inductees. A formal ceremony is planned later this year.

Brooks has been in semi-retirement, raising his children in his home state of Oklahoma with his wife, Trisha Yearwood. He started a string



Garth Brooks pauses to compose himself as he thanks the crowd Tuesday, March 6, 2012, during the announcement that he will be inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville, Tenn.

of shows in Las Vegas a few years ago, and talked openly Tuesday about what will hap-

pen after his nest empties.

"A lot of times you go into the hall of fame at the end of

your career," Brooks said. "I've got to make sure that I understand this honor. But now my job is to take this honor and take it somewhere hopefully it hasn't been taken before, and that's to strap it on a rocket like a tour, especially a tour that's been vacant since 1998. Our youngest is a sophomore in high school, so we'll see after that. The kids are always our first priority. If they seem to be off and running well on their own, it sure would be fun to fire it up."

All three inductees noted the contribution of others to their success. Brooks thought his induction might be "premature," given the long list of others he believes should already be enshrined. Yearwood said Brooks was in tears after he got the call a few weeks ago.

Obese Calif. man's plea becomes YouTube sensation

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A morbidly obese California man whose tearful, videotaped plea for help became a YouTube sensation may be getting the support he wanted.

The "Dr. Phil" show reached out to Livermore resident Robert Gibbs, 23, after he posted his three-minute video last week.

Gibbs mentioned the pro-

gram in his clip, which has been viewed more than a million times and inspired more than four dozen recorded responses from viewers offering diet tips and encouragement.

A crew from the "Dr. Phil" show was scheduled to come to his house and film him on Wednesday, Gibbs told The Associated Press.

On the YouTube video, which he made the day before his birthday last Friday, Gibbs did not specify what kind of help he needed—just that he hoped someone knowledgeable about weight loss would see it and get in touch with him.

He also said he feared he would not live long enough to see his nephew and niece grow up or to

have a family of his own. He estimated his weight to be between 600 and 700 pounds.

"I'm making this video because I don't know what else to do," he said on the video. "For everyone who is just going to make fun of me I really don't care. It doesn't matter. This is my last chance, my last hope, one of them at least."

Novak explains feelings behind 'Artist' protest

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kim Novak is clarifying why she used the word "rape" to describe how she felt about "The Artist."

The 79-year-old "Vertigo" actress, who will be honored next month at the TCM Classic Film Festival, said during a phone interview Monday that hearing the score from the Alfred Hitchcock film used in the recent Oscar-winning homage to the silent-film era reminded her of the same feelings she experienced when she was raped as a child.

"It was very painful," said Novak. "When I said it was like a rape, that was how it felt to me. I had experienced in my youth



Novak

being raped, and so I identified with a real act that had been done to me. I didn't use that word lightly. I had been raped as a child. It was a rape I never told about, so when I experienced this one, I felt the need to express it."

Novak, who played the dual role of both a suicidal trophy wife and a morose working girl opposite Jimmy Stewart in the 1958 thriller, said in a statement released in January by her manager that she "wanted to report a rape" and that the filmmakers of "The Artist" had no reason "to depend on Bernard Herrmann's score from 'Vertigo' to provide more drama."

Monkees contemplate how to memorialize Davy Jones

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The three surviving Monkees aren't planning to attend Davy Jones' funeral because it would likely bring too much unwanted attention to his family during their time of grief, the group's Micky Dolenz said Tuesday.

He and fellow Monkees Peter Tork, and Michael Nesmith have talked of attending one of the memorials that Jones' family is planning to hold in New York and in the late singer's native England, Dolenz said. And he added he's considering organizing a memorial himself for Jones' friends in Los Angeles.

Whether the surviving Monkees would perform at any of the gatherings, or at any other

time in the future, is an open question.

"The three of us, Mike and Peter and I, we have never worked together just as a threesome. Mostly it was Peter, David and I and then Mike would join us," Dolenz said of the band's periodic reunions over the years.

"We've been talking, we've been communicating, but it's way too early, I think, to project or predict anything like that."

A private family funeral will take place in Florida this week, Jones spokeswoman Helen Kensick said Tuesday, declining to give any further details. Planning for a family service in England and a public memorial in the U.S. were still under way.

Meanings of misspellings remain curiously obscure

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I'm writing to respond to the letter from the mother of the 12-year-old boy whose grandmother can't spell his name right. ("His Name Is Joel!"; Jan. 4). The same thing happened to my husband. His grandmother spells his name with a C instead of a K. I have always put K on our cards and letters to her, but I think at her age she's stuck in her habit.

Once she sent my husband a beautiful silver money clip for which she had spent several hundred dollars. She had it engraved with the wrong initials -- including the C. She's such a sweet, lovely woman that, at that point, I insisted he never make reference to the correct spelling of his name again. Engraved items can rarely be returned, and I knew how hurt she'd be knowing she had spelled his name wrong. He called and thanked her profusely for such a generous gift, and we've never brought up the matter since.

ANNE IN TEXAS

DEAR ANNE: Thank you for writing. I guessed that the grandmother might not have been pleased with the name the boy had been given. Other readers also had hunches about why the grandmother would continue to misspell it. Their comments:

DEAR ABBY: I suspect that Grandma doesn't like that particular spelling of the child's name. These days people have come up with unusual spellings for common names. Instead of Rebecca, you have Rebekka. For Ashley, you have Ashlee, Ashleigh and Ashli. Karen can now be Caryn or Caren. This makes it especially difficult for anyone with an unusually spelled name. You can bet that no one will get it right. So I imagine this is Grandma's way of expressing her disapproval of the spelling of the child's name.

ONLY THE SPELLING HAS BEEN CHANGED

DEAR ABBY: My sweet grandmother misspelled my name every time she wrote to us. She had only a third-grade education, lived in a home with no electricity, raised four girls alone after her husband died and continued to maintain the family farm.

She wrote with a pencil that was sharpened with a knife and spelled my name—Karen—the way it sounded to her, "Kron." I was never insulted. I always laughed about the fact that it looked as if my name were that of a cave person.

Of course, I knew she loved me unconditionally. Maybe that is why "HNIJ" seems to have a problem with her son's grandmother. Could it be she feels Grandma doesn't show enough love to the boy?

CAVE WOMAN KRON

DEAR ABBY: Rather than suggest that Grandma doesn't like the child's name, it may be she's like my mother. Mom has a hearing problem and can't make out sounds, which is why she constantly misspells her grandson's name.

JOYCE IN KENTUCKY

DEAR ABBY: I made the same mistake with my granddaughter's name—for 10 years. No one told me her name ended with an "i" and not a "y." Boy, was I ever embarrassed. The misspelling was not deliberate, and I sure wish someone would have pointed out my error sooner.

JUST UNINFORMED IN ALABAMA

DEAR ABBY: My late mother and my father-in-law both misspelled my children's names. Mom even took liberties with MY name after I was married. I don't think either one was sending me a message. They just weren't familiar with the particular spelling.

"HNIJ" should give Grandma a framed photo of her grandson with his name (and date of birth, maybe) on a label at the bottom. Seeing his name daily may be all the woman needs to learn the correct spelling.

BEEN THERE, TOO

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Sci-fi drama 'Terra Nova' axed after first season

NEW YORK (AP)—The prehistoric drama "Terra Nova" is history on Fox. The network said late Monday it is dropping the pricey sci-fi series after a single season. The ambitious series, filmed in Australia with expensive special effects, got a lukewarm reception from viewers last fall despite high anticipation from sci-fi fans. It averaged less than 8 million viewers weekly. The series followed a family on its journey back to prehistoric Earth on a mission to save the human race. It starred Jason O'Mara and Stephen Lang, with behind-the-scenes principals including Steven Spielberg. "Terra Nova" was announced in May 2010, but production problems led to repeated delays in its debut. Jason O'Mara declared the show's fate to his Twitter followers Monday night, tweeting,

"Bad news, guys. Terra Nova has been cancelled by Fox."

Justin Bieber's mom to publish memoir

TORONTO (AP)—Pop star Justin Bieber's mom has inked a book deal to tell the story of the role she played in her son's rise to superstardom. Pattie Mallette signed a deal with Revell Books to publish, "Nowhere But Up: The Story of Justin Bieber's Mom." The book's publisher said in a statement Tuesday that Mallette will share details of the trauma, abuse and addiction that plagued her early childhood and young adult years, leading to a suicide attempt when she was 17. The Stratford, Ontario, native became pregnant at age 18 and gave birth to Bieber in 1994. The book, written in collaboration with A.J. Gregory, will include a foreword by Bieber. It is slated for release Sept. 18.

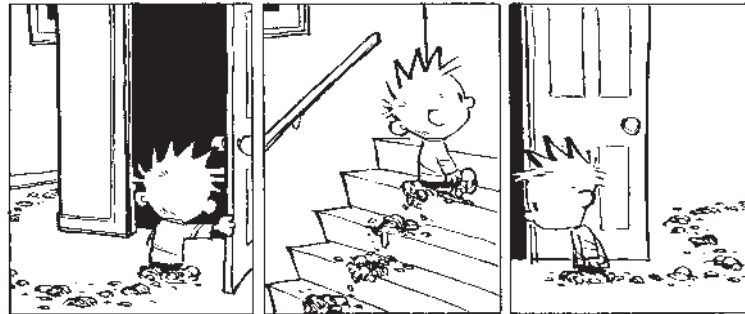
Teju Cole wins \$10,000 prize for first novel

NEW YORK (AP)—Author Teju Cole has won this year's Hemingway Foundation/PEN Award for a "distinguished" first book of fiction. PEN New England, a regional branch of the international writers organization, and the Hemingway Foundation announced Tuesday that Cole, 36, would receive \$10,000 for "Open City." Cole's story of a Nigerian doctor's physical and spiritual journey also is a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle award. The author grew up in Nigeria and currently lives in New York City. The Hemingway award was founded in 1976 by Mary Hemingway, widow of the Nobel laureate. Previous winners of the Hemingway prize include Marilynne Robinson and Edward P. Jones.

Pastimes

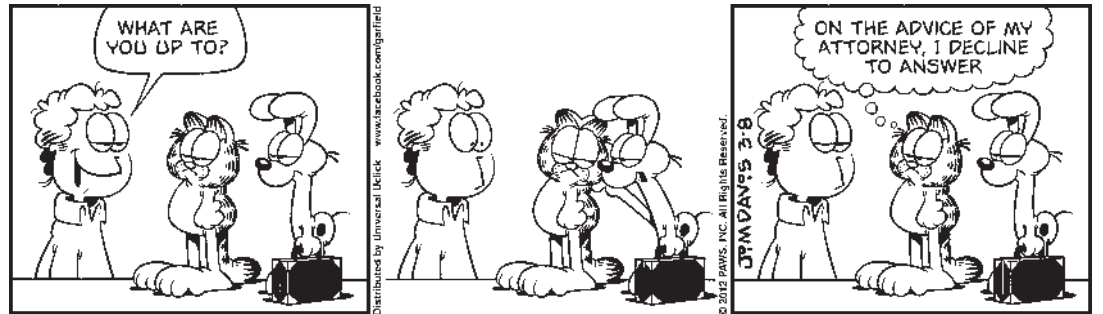
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



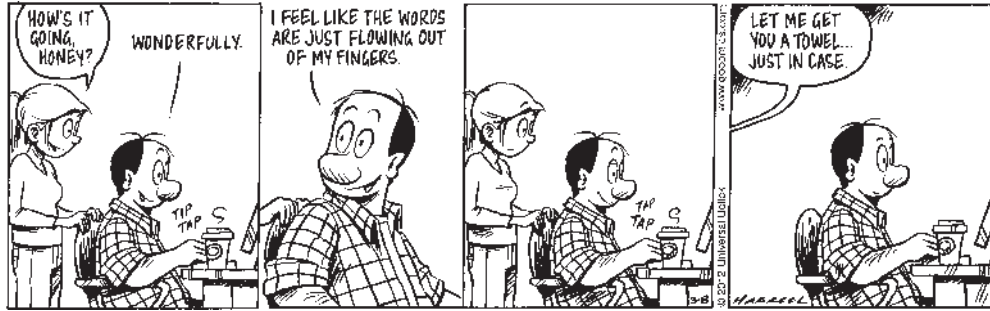
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Paddock
5 Rotating part
8 Lateen-rigged boat
12 Mid-eastern gulf
13 "The Greatest"
14 Architect
15 Paper quantity
16 Under the weather
17 George Herman Ruth
18 Damage
20 Praise highly
22 Conclusive proof
26 Grip
29 Trigger's rider
30 Id counterpart
31 See 36-Across
32 Victory
33 Auction
34 — out a living
35 Lubricate

36 With 31-
Across,
1957 Pat Boone hit

37 Forefront
of activity

40 From square one

41 Etta
James classic

45 "The Forsyte —"

47 \$
dispenser

49 Perjurer

50 Paradise

51 Unruly group

52 Advan-
tage

53 "The Da Vinci —"

54 "Mayday!"

DOWN

1 Ganges garment word
2 Footnote
3 Harvest
4 As a group
5 Egypt's capital
6 The whole enchilada
7 Top prize on many recent shows
8 Fix, as software
9 Hats
10 Sphere

11 Misery

19 Mischievous tyke

21 Whatever number

23 Baleen whale's fodder

24 Wrinkly citrus

25 Christmas refrain

26 Staff leader?

27 Norse trickster god

28 Did a mean job?

32 Some Native American homes

33 Relieved

35 Individual

36 Pismire

38 Crazy

39 Poetic feet

42 Staffer

43 Droops

44 "Star —"

45 Moment

46 Commotion

48 Excessively

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 3-8

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: James Van Der Beek, 35; Freddie Prinze Jr., 36; Camryn Manheim, 51; Aidan Quinn, 53.

Happy Birthday: Take control of your life. Do whatever it takes to smooth out any pending problems. Taking charge will show your strength and courage as well as enhance the respect you get from others. Do your best to motivate others to join in and help you reach your goals. Develop and utilize your skills and you will advance. Your numbers are 8, 17, 21, 26, 33, 41, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Get a grip on what's important and leave trivial matters for later. Taking advantage of opportunities that will help you reach realistic goals will eventually bring you success and recognition in your field. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take advantage of an opportunity to try something new. Keep your eyes wide open and let your enthusiasm lead you to a better place. What you learn now will help you explore ways to turn what you have to offer into a viable commodity. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't let your emotions run wild or your temper flare up. Concentrate on what needs to be done to stabilize your life mentally, emotionally and financially. Secret affairs will be tempting, but deception will lead to trouble. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't let what someone says ruin your day or depress you. Focus on home, family and relationships with the people who really count in your life. Love and romance are highlighted,

making this an important day to share your feelings. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Keep moving and you'll avoid trouble and criticism, allowing you to accomplish your goals. Don't be afraid to change your opinion if you discover information that warrants a review. Your ability to show fairness will be appreciated. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Call the shots, share information and spend time marketing and presenting your skills, services and current goals. A partnership will play an important role in the decisions you make regarding your future lifestyle, routine and beliefs. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't allow uncertainty to cloud your mind or interfere with decisions necessary to personal or professional advancement. Make changes at home that allow you the time and space to develop and do your own thing. Take care of paperwork. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Put more time and effort into partnerships and you will be rewarded with the response you get. A joint venture will result in a far better product, service or outcome. Communication will help you work toward a fair and equal arrangement. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll be torn between what you want and what you can have. Alterations to your living arrangements will help you get closer to your goals. What you learn through the experience will help you come up with a viable solution. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Investments will pay off. Look at property or improve your assets by adding something that is in demand. Making a service, product, asset or even your own personal appeal more enticing will bring greater rewards. Love is highlighted. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't let someone's melodrama ruin your day or take up your time. You have to concentrate on your own life and how you can make it better. Avoid taking on someone who has ulterior motives. Ask questions and make decisions based on facts. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Passionate encounters will bring rewards if you remain objective and concentrate on the positive. A new beginning using old ideas can lead to an interesting comeback if you are willing to reunite with people who can contribute. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are aggressive, productive and intent on getting your way. You strive for perfection. Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

		6				5				
	7						8			
2			4		8				1	
		4	8		5	6				
		8	9		6	7				
4			2		7				5	
	9							2		
		3			1					

Difficulty Level ★★★

3/08

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	6	8	7	5	9	1	2	4
9	7	5	1	2	4	8	3	6
4	2	1	3	8	6	9	7	5
6	4	9	5	7	2	3	1	8
7	8	3	9	4	1	6	5	2
1	5	2	6	3	8	4	9	7
5	9	7	8	6	3	2	4	1
2	1	6	4	9	7	5	8	3
8	3	4	2	1	5	7	6	9

Difficulty Level ★★★

3/07

WONDERWORD

By DAVID QUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SOLAR RADIATION

Solution: 8 letters

R	S	S	A	P	R	R	S	E	A	S	O	N	S	S
A	E	T	A	R	O	E	T	S	U	D	A	E	T	H
Y	R	R	P	E	W	T	S	S	T	V	O	R	O	
S	A	E	A	N	U	L	E	A	U	A	R	A	I	R
P	E	V	E	N	O	F	B	R	W	E	L	E	K	T
A	Y	N	L	L	U	I	A	I	R	O	A	Q	E	P
C	G	O	C	L	E	L	T	U	S	T	R	U	I	O
E	O	C	L	M	A	C	T	A	M	I	O	A	N	L
C	L	I	M	E	A	T	O	L	G	V	T	T	L	
R	O	T	R	R	D	S	R	B	U	A	I	E	U	
A	N	E	I	N	P	H	O	I	J	S	O	N	T	
F	H	D	P	I	H	E	A	T	U	C	E	N	S	A
T	C	M	W	E	A	T	H	E	R	R	I	C	I	N
D	E	B	R	O	S	B	A	H	T	A	C	T	T	T
T	T	E	L	B	A	W	E	N	E	R	E	E	Y	S

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3/8

Absorbed, Atmosphere, Clear, Convert, Direct, Dust, Earth, Electricity, Equation, Heat, Insulation, Intensity, Natural, Objects, Pass, Pollutants, Power, Rate, Rays, Renewable, Savor, Season, Short, Solar, Source, Spacecraft, Store, Strike, Technology, Temperature, Thermal, Time, Useful, Vapor, Visible, Water, Waves, Weather, Wind, Year

Yesterday's Answer: Connected

Words: THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 01-2012
Opening date: February 23, 2012 Closing date: March 8, 2012

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancy:

(1) Staff Engineer (Saipan)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. For Rota vacancy, applications may be picked up at the CPA's Administration Office of the Rota International Airport; and for Tinian's vacancy, applications may be picked up at CPA's Administration Office of the Tinian International Airport. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. The deadline for submission of applications is no later than **4:30 p.m., March 8, 2012.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing. For more information, please contact Ms. Addy C. Manahane by email at acmanahane@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

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/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

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Source: Colts expected to part with Manning



INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Barring a last-minute change of heart, the Indianapolis Colts are expected to release quarterback Peyton Manning after a 14-year star turn that included one Super Bowl title and a record four MVP awards.

The Colts scheduled a noon news conference for Wednesday without saying why, but a person with knowledge of the decision said the team planned to announce it was parting ways with Manning rather than pay him a \$28 million bonus. He would become a free agent.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Tuesday night because no official announcement had been made.

Manning's impending departure was first reported by ESPN earlier Tuesday.

Manning and Colts owner Jim Irsay flew into Indianapolis together late Tuesday, but the QB declined to address questions about his future with the team.

"We'll see y'all tomorrow," Manning told a small group of reporters. "We're good. We'll talk tomorrow. We'll do it the right way tomorrow."

Peyton's older brother, Cooper, told the AP in a brief phone interview that he couldn't confirm his brother was leaving the Colts.

"I don't know anything," he said.

Word of the impending breakup—though not unexpected—still caught one of Manning's closest friends, Colts center Jeff Saturday, off guard.

"I never thought it was a foregone conclusion," Saturday said. "I was always hopeful they'd get something worked out, and that he would be back in a horseshoe, but it doesn't look like that's going to happen."

That's what Manning wanted, too.

He had said in the past that his goal was to play his entire career with the Colts, but a damaged nerve that forced him to have neck surgery kept him out of action for all of 2011, and not coincidentally, his team's record plummeted to 2-14.

"I can't tell you what an honor it is to go start-to-finish with the same organization here in Indianapolis. That is something I have always wanted to do as a rookie coming out," Manning said in July, after signing a five-year, \$90 million contract. "Of course, you never know if that is possible, but after yesterday it is official that I will be an Indianapolis Colt for my entire career. I will not play for another team. My last down of football will be with the Colts, which means a great deal to me."

But things changed since last summer. Now it seems all but certain that Manning won't be



In this Jan. 16, 2010, file photo, Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning waves as he walks off the field after the NFL divisional football playoff game against the Baltimore Ravens in Indianapolis.

wearing No. 18 for Indy anymore—and he'll certainly draw interest from teams in need of a quarterback.

With the bonus payment due

Thursday, the neck problems, and the fact that the Colts own the No. 1 pick in April's draft, the Colts seem to have deemed it too risky—and too pricey—

to keep the longtime franchise quarterback, who will turn 36 later this month.

The Colts are expected to take Stanford quarterback An-

drew Luck first overall, with the first pick in April's draft.

The question now, if he indeed goes, is where Manning might land.

Arizona, Miami, Tennessee, Washington and the New York Jets all have been rumored as possible destinations, and Manning's former longtime offensive coordinator in Indianapolis, Tom Moore, did work with the Jets as a consultant less season.

It's still possible, however unlikely, that Manning could return to Indy for a lower price if he can prove he's healthy.

"This isn't an ankle, it isn't a shoulder. Often times the NFL is criticized for putting someone out there at risk, and I'm not going to doing that," Irsay said in January. "I think he and I just need to see where his health is because this isn't about money or anything else. It's about his life and his long-term health."

But based on some back-and-forth comments made by Manning and Irsay of late, indications were that the two were squabbling.

With the Colts in full rebuilding mode, Irsay was expected by many to play for the future by allowing Manning to chase a second Super Bowl ring elsewhere.

If he goes, Manning's departure marks the end of a remarkably successful era that included the 2006 league title.

He started every meaningful game for 13 seasons in Indianapolis—227 in a row, including the playoffs—and took the Colts from perennial also-ran to one of the NFL's model franchises.

In the two decades predating his arrival, the Colts won 116 games, one division title and made the playoffs three times. With Manning taking snaps, the Colts have won 150 games, eight division titles, two AFC championships and the franchise's first Super Bowl since moving from Bal-

timore in 1984.

Indy broke the league record for most regular-season wins in a decade (115), tied Dallas' mark for most consecutive playoff appearances (nine), and the success changed Indy from a basketball town to an NFL town.

Manning is one of four players with more than 50,000 yards passing, one of three with more than 350 touchdown passes and one of two quarterbacks with more than 200 consecutive starts. He broke all of the franchise's major career passing records, previously held by Hall of Fame quarterback John Unitas, and he may not be finished.

In 2009, Manning placed the Colts on the cusp of football history with a 14-0 start.

It's been mostly bad news ever since. The Colts pulled their starters against the Jets and lost the final two games that season. Indy then wound up losing to New Orleans in the Super Bowl. During the offseason, Manning had the first of his neck surgeries.

Then, after making an early playoff exit in the 2010 season, Manning underwent another neck surgery to repair a damaged nerve that was causing weakness in his throwing arm.

When the nerve did not heal as quickly as expected, Manning had two vertebrae fused together in September, a surgery that forced him to miss a game for the first time in his NFL career. There are still questions about the strength of Manning's arm.

Still, he has insisted he intends to play football next season.

"My plan hasn't changed," Manning said during Super Bowl week in Indianapolis, where his future was the main topic of conversation. "I'm on track with what the doctors have told me to do, and I'm doing that. I'm rehabbing hard."

Saints GM and coach admit blame

By BARRY WILNER
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

Almost a week after the NFL pointed to them for failing to stop a bounty program involving some two dozen Saints players, coach Sean Payton and general manager Mickey Loomis apologized and took the blame for violations that "happened under our watch."

"These are serious violations and we understand the negative impact it has had on our game," Payton and Loomis added. "Both of us have made it clear within our organization that this will never happen again, and make that same promise to the NFL and most importantly to all of our fans," Payton and Loomis said in a joint state-

ment Tuesday.

Payton and Loomis also said New Orleans owner Tom Benson "had nothing to do" with the bounty pool.

"We acknowledge that the violations disclosed by the NFL during their investigation of our club happened under our watch. We take full responsibility," they said.

The league's investigation, released last Friday, said the bounty program was funded primarily by players for the past three seasons and was overseen by former Saints defensive coordinator Gregg Williams. He admitted to running the program and apologized within hours after the report surfaced.

The NFL said it confirmed

Benson was unaware of the program, and that he told Loomis to stop it immediately, but that Loomis did not. The league also said Payton, though not directly involved, was aware of the bounty pool, but did nothing to stop it.

Williams now is defensive coordinator for the St. Louis Rams. He met with NFL security officials on Monday as part of the league's ongoing investigation.

Once it concludes—the league says there is no timetable—Roger Goodell likely will hand out the stiffest penalties of his 5 1/2 years as commissioner.

Goodell has frequently taken a hard line on any action that threatens player

safety. He suspended Detroit's Ndamukong Suh for two games for stomping on an opponent last season; banned Pittsburgh's James Harrison for one game after a series of flagrant hits that culminated in a collision with Cleveland quarterback Colt McCoy's helmet; and has ramped up the amount of fines for what the league terms "egregious hits."

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said before handing out any penalties, Goodell will review the information with his staff and consult with others, including the union and player leaders.

The players' union has not seen a full report of the investigation, so it can't be certain if Goodell will levy punishment under the

on-field discipline or the personal conduct policy. There's a major distinction, because players can appeal on-field punishment to independent arbitrators Art Shell and Ted Cottrell. Appeals under the personal conduct policy are heard by Goodell and other league officials.

"The commissioner has broad authority to impose discipline for violation of league rules. We're not going to put it in a category right now," Aiello said.

The NFL hasn't cited specific players, but fines and suspensions are probable for those found to have participated in the bounty program.

"We take this issue seriously and we continue to look into it," union spokesman George Atallah said.

Pistons overcome Bryant, beat Lakers in OT, 88-85



AUBURN HILLS, Michigan (AP)—Rodney Stuckey scored 34 points as the Detroit Pistons overcame an equalizing shot by Kobe Bryant at the end of regulation to beat the Los Angeles Lakers 88-85 in overtime Tuesday night.

Bryant, who had leveled the game at the buzzer to force the extra session, missed from 3-point range in the final seconds of overtime. Metta World Peace came up with the ball and dribbled back toward the top of the key, but his last-ditch turnaround missed as well.

Andrew Bynum had 30 points and 14 rebounds for the Lakers.

Bryant finished with 22 points on 8-of-26 shooting. He started the game with a black mask protecting his injured nose but switched to a clear one while struggling through the first half.

Mavericks 95, Knicks 85

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki scored 28 points to help the Mavericks recover after losing the lead following a 7½-minute scoreless stretch to start the fourth quarter.

Nowitzki made a 14-foot fadeaway jumper with 4:34 left, starting a game-clinching, 14-0 run by the Mavericks in which their All-Star forward scored nine points.

That was after the Knicks, who had trailed by as many as 19, scored the first 15 points of the fourth quarter and went ahead 78-77 on Amare Stoudemire's basket. Stoudemire had 26 points, Jeremy Lin had 14 points and seven assists.

When the Knicks beat the Mavericks nearly 2 1/2 weeks ago before the All-Star break, Lin had 28 points and 14 assists. That ended a six-game winning streak for Dallas, and started the stretch of six losses in eight games before Tuesday night.

Celtics 97, Rockets 92, OT

In Boston, Kevin Garnett grabbed 13 rebounds to replace Shaquille O'Neal at No. 12 on the NBA's career list, and Paul Pierce scored seven of his 30 points in overtime to lead Boston over Houston.

Boston has won five straight since the All-Star break, including two in a row in overtime. Houston has lost four in a row.

Ray Allen scored 21, including a 3-pointer with 36 seconds left in the fourth quarter to give Boston the lead. But Rajon Rondo missed an open layup with a chance to clinch it in regulation, and Goran Dragic tied it for the Rockets.

Luis Scola had 18 points and 14 rebounds, and Samuel Dalembert had 11 points and 17



Detroit Pistons guard Rodney Stuckey (3) passes the ball around Los Angeles Lakers center Andrew Bynum (17) during the third quarter of an NBA basketball game in Auburn Hills, Mich., Tuesday, March 6, 2012.

boards for Houston.

Heat 108, Nets 78

In Miami, LeBron James scored 21 points and capped his night by banking in a halfcourt shot as Miami ended a two-game slide by rolling past New Jersey.

The win came with a cost: Dwyane Wade turned his right ankle late in the first half and did not return, finishing with 13 points. Wade missed six games earlier this season after spraining the same ankle, though the team said he could have returned to this one if needed.

The Heat made 12 of their first 15 shots on the way to a 10th straight home win. James finished 9 for 11, adding nine rebounds and six assists, and the 78 points allowed matched Miami's season-best.

Deron Williams, who was coming off an NBA season-high 57 points in a win over Charlotte, scored 16 for the Nets. MarShon Brooks scored 12 and Johan Petro added 11 for New Jersey, which lost to the Heat for the ninth straight time.

Bobcats 100, Magic 84

In Charlotte, Corey Maggette scored a season-high 29 points as Charlotte overcame a 20-point first-half deficit to beat Orlando.

The Bobcats came in having lost 21 of their last 22 games, but seemed to get a spark after coach Paul Silas was ejected in the second quarter with the team trailing by 18.

The Bobcats also got a big game from rookie center Bismack Biyombo, who battled toe-to-toe with Dwight Howard and had 10 points and a career-high 15 rebounds.

Howard had 15 points and 17 rebounds, and Ryan Anderson added 14 points and 11 boards for the Magic.

Hawks 101, Pacers 96

In Indianapolis, Josh Smith had 27 points and nine rebounds, leading Atlanta over Indiana for its third straight victory.

Smith scored 13 points in the first quarter, 11 in the third, and fell three points shy of his season high.

Jannero Pargo had 16 points, while Marvin Williams and Zaza Pachulia each scored 12 for the Hawks.

David West scored a season-high 24 points for the Pacers, who have lost two straight. Danny Granger had 19 points and eight rebounds, and George Hill scored 15 points off the bench for Indiana.

Sacramento approves arena plan to keep Kings

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—The only place the Sacramento Kings are moving to is a new downtown home in California's capital.

A year after almost being wiped off the NBA map, Sacramento cleared the most critical political hurdle late Tuesday night when the City Council approved a plan to help finance an estimated \$391 million arena, setting off cheers through the cramped chambers that spilled onto the streets of downtown with a message that echoed from Anaheim to Seattle and across the basketball world.

"Long live Sacramento, and long live the Kings!" shouted Sacramento Mayor and former NBA All-Star Kevin Johnson to a sea of supporters that packed the grounds for the historic vote.

The non-binding term sheet, signed off by the Kings and the NBA last week, will keep the team in Sacramento for at least another 30 years.

Cheers rang out from supporters who cramped the council's chambers when the plan passed by a 7-2 vote—the last coming with Johnson screaming "Yeeees!"—and pushed the city's portion of the agreement forward. Binding contracts from all sides, which are expected to be a formality, could be signed as soon as April.

Asked what the biggest challenge remaining was, Johnson told the crowd: "That everybody behind me is not hung over going into tomorrow."

Under the agreement, the city will contribute \$255.5 million to the project, mostly by leasing out parking garages around the facility. The city is also exploring an option to establish a parking authority instead.

The Kings have agreed to pay \$73.25 million and arena operator AEG will contribute \$58.75 million. The remaining gap will be covered by a ticket surcharge, advertising around

the facility, the sale of public lands and a sponsorship campaign to sell bricks and plaques around the complex. Construction is expected to begin in the late spring or early summer next year on the arena, which would open for the 2015-16 season in the downtown rail yards.

"I want to thank you on behalf of my family and our organization for taking the next step forward," Kings co-owner Gavin Maloof told the council. "We look forward in working with you throughout this process and we are excited about this. We appreciate your efforts. This is a great day for Sacramento."

The meeting packed the council chambers to its capacity of about 500 and residents on both sides clogged downtown with signs, shirts and even songs.

City Manager John Shirey told the council that the decision would be "one of the toughest votes of your career" and implored members to approve the

plan for the economic benefit, job creation and immeasurable notoriety of remaining a major professional sports city, saying "there are only 30 of those (NBA) franchises in all the world and we happen to have one of them."

"The status quo is not really an option before you this evening," Shirey said. "If we do nothing, the Kings will likely leave Sacramento."

Maloof walked into the chamber just before the meeting to a light standing ovation. He was later joined by rookie point guard Isaiah Thomas, who also drew light cheers.

"I'm glad I came down here. This is a historical time for the city," said Thomas, who was invited by the mayor to attend.

A line of residents snaked around City Hall and seemingly every TV truck and radio station in the Central Valley was broadcasting outside. One fan wore Johnson's old Phoenix Suns jersey among the scores of Kings signs and jerseys in the crowd. A group of about 120 supporters of the plan wore white T-shirts with black letters that read "5 Votes."

"This is bigger than basketball," said Michael Tavares, one of the leaders of the group called (hash)Fans, which stands for Fund Arena Now Sacramento. "It's about making Sacramento a destination."

Opponents and proponents of the plan were allowed to speak for 2 minutes. Each side was granted 45 minutes, and those who couldn't reach the lectern in the allotted time were allowed to stand in acknowledgement of their support afterward.

The more than 4-hour meeting brought out some animated speakers, including a man who wore a hard hat and sang a song to start construction soon, a young woman who started to cry while arguing other public works such as schools and parks were being ignored, and oth-

ers just raised their voices and pounded their fists. Most, however, remained civilized.

Those against the plan argued it steers public money toward a private company, that sports arenas don't produce enough—or any—economic benefit and that the project is being rushed. Some also asked for the plan to be put to a public vote.

"This city is on the verge of insolvency. As far as I know, we still technically qualify for bankruptcy under federal law," said Councilwoman Sandy Sheedy, who opposed the plan. She added the project "will scoop up every nickel and dime" left in the city's budget.

Proponents echoed the mayor and city manager's stances, trumpeting job creation and saying the economic loss if the Kings left would be even worse. In the end, those voices spoke to the majority.

The passage of the plan highlighted a turnaround for a town that once seemed assured of losing its only major professional sports team.

Mike Sablan hailed XGA February Ace

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



Mike "Palaksi" Sablan topped a field of 19 golfers and was declared the X-clusive

Golfers Association's February Ace following the group's monthly event held at the Marianas Country Club last Feb. 25.

Sablan started out with a 40 on the front nine and matched the effort after the round for an even raw count of 80 that was adjusted into a 65 net tally. He also won the closest to the pin in hole No. 8.

Three strokes back was Ray Villagomez who scratched a 42 on the front and finished with a 44 for a gross score of 86 that worked into a 68 net result.

John Reyes matched Villagomez's card but settled for third place after the handicap adjustment with a 70 net score.

The win qualified Sablan to



X-clusive Golfers Association member Mike Sablan, right, poses with runner-up Ray Villagomez, left, and club president Dave Cepeda after winning XGA's March Ace of the Month held last Feb. 25 at the Marianas Country Club.

compete in the yearend Ace of Aces tournament along with January Ace J.J. Cabrera.

In addition, Ernest Sablan was awarded the closest to the

pin in hole No. 6; Joey Dela Cruz in hole No. 12; and Ned Norita took hole No. 16.

The XGA is made up of about 30 members and is cur-

rently accepting new members until Thursday, March 1. In contrast to its name, the XGA wants the public to know that anyone can join the club, male or female.

Newcomers are required to pay a \$50 annual fee in addition to a club uniform (\$25). Membership renewal for returning members is only \$40.

On the day of events, players are also required to pay a green fee along with an additional \$30 tournament fee that goes toward the awards banquet, prize money, and incentives for the club.

Rota Fishing Derby set March 15 and 16

San Isidro Church Council and its supporters are sponsoring the Rota Fishing Derby on March 15 and 16.

The entrance fee is set at \$150 per boat, which covers two anglers. Each additional angler costs \$25.

Fishermen from Tinian, Saipan, and Guam are invited to help support the church's building fund drive. All boats must be in by 6pm on both days in order for their submissions to be accepted; upon registration boats set out to sea early as 6am.

The Top 3 place finishers in the billfish, wahoo, skipjack, mahi, and yellow tuna categories will all be awarded cash and other prizes.

Coincidentally, since the event will take place during Rota's San Isidro village fiesta, all competitors are invited to stay over after the event and

partake in Saturday's festivities. However, an exclusive awards banquet will held for participants on Friday night.

In an effort to make signing up easy for off-island entrants, event officials will be present on Tinian, Saipan, and Guam to help ensure a snag-free registration process.

Off-island boats can begin fishing once they leave their home docks and do not have to travel all the way to Rota if they do not have a worthy catch to submit.

The awards ceremony will take place at Sainan Ina San Isidro Church, which is also the venue for Saturday's island-wide fiesta.

For more information or to obtain a registration, call 532-9362 or 285-4018 or email diego@pticom.com or pete_rmc@yahoo.com. (Walter Cepeda Sutherland)

NATIONALS

From Page 28

now off-island and will not make it to the Guam trip.

Rabauliman and Devero are expected to fill the void Cruz left on the CNMI's offense. Both wingmen were one of the

top scorers for the MHS Dolphins during their playing years in the MISO caging and are now competing and holding their own against much older and tougher open division players. The two new recruits even won individual awards in various local leagues.

Sablan, who took a brief

break from competitive basketball, returned to action last year and played for Proa in the GBL. He is also seeing action in the DLX/Miller Lite caging and is among the Sunrisers' top gunners. Aitao Barcinas also returned to active play last season and is a good addition to the CNMI's backcourt.

Aguon's wards are training twice a week at the Northern Marianas College Gymnasium and are suiting up for various teams in the Miller Lite caging. Aguon, who is assisted by Ed Manalili, Omar Ajoste, and Edsel Mendoza, said the team hopes to compete in one league before the MBT in Guam and the squad will

also join the March Madness in Guam this month.

The Nationals will leave for Guam on March 15 and will be battling military teams from Japan, Korea, and Guam, and the hosts' local and national squads.

"I can say that this team is much more mature and with more quality games under their

belt is very positive. The team's participation in the March Madness is part of our preparation," Aguon said.

The CNMI finished last in the 2010 Micro Games and is hoping for early redemption in the MBT this season or two years before Pohnpei hosts the Games.

ELEMENTARY

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and back to Micro Beach were Japan's Eimi Hirano (1:27:47/15 to 19), Rie Takagi (56:00/20 to 29), Chiyoko Kitamura (56:21/50 50 59), and Setsuko Fujita (1:14:13/over 60).

In the men's 10K division, the CNMI's Cesar Danao (44:07), not Yuji Yamada (44:47) as announced during the awards ceremony last Saturday night, was runner-up to Charles Epperson (37:45). In the age group divisions, the top placers were the CNMI's Rintaro Miyawaki (54:00/U14), Kenji Suzuki

(1:10:40/15 to 19), and Hansu Chung (59:14/20 to 29), Japan's Yoshihiro Miyazaki (53:35/30 to 39), Mitsuaki Sosumi (50:26/40 to 49), Eichi Ishigami (48:54/50 to 59), and Sakae Sato (47:19/over 60).

In the half marathon, Japanese runners swept the men's and women's fields. Top finishers include the men's division's Ryoichiro Goto (1:58:36/U14), Fuma Sadamoto (1:46:06/15 to 19), Koichiro Ishii (1:37:28/20 to 29), Kunihiro Sasamoto (1:36:42/30 to 39), Kenichiro So (1:38:58/40 to 49), Norio Teraoka (1:41:13/50 to 59), and Kiyoshi Sato (1:37:37/over 60); and women's Natsumi Ishikawa

(2:02:29/20 to 29), Mika Yabe (2:12:23/30 to 39), Naomi Amai (2:02:32/40 to 49), and Kazuyo Tanabe (2:08:44/50 to 59).

751 finishers, over 2M advertising exposure

Counting the full and ultra marathon finishers, 751 individuals crossed the finish line of last weekend's Saipan Marathon.

Runners cruising the northern and southern parts of the island had their photos and videos taken by visiting media groups from Japan and Korea.

Five television stations and two magazines from Japan and two magazines from Korea covered the race, according to

the organizing Marianas Visitors Authority and these would translate to over \$2 million in advertising exposure in Japan and Korea.

"The Saipan Marathon, along with the upcoming XTERRA Saipan Championship on March 24 and the Tagaman Triathlon on March 31, are all promotional tools organized or supported by the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) to spread the word about the Northern Marianas," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "Not only do these events attract visitors, they also provide an opportunity to showcase our beautiful

islands through visiting media, as well."

MVA in a press statement said that the "opportunity is expected to translate this year to millions of televisions viewers and nearly 300,000 readers throughout Japan, as well as hundreds of thousands of readers in Korea. The agency added that Boom-Up filmed a 30-minute program to air on Yomiuri TV and Chukyo TV with CNMI Sports Tourism Ambassador and marathon supporter Kampei Hazama featured in the show. Two female reporters of TV shows Hirujige-don from Nagasaki International Broadcasting and

Niigata Ichiban of TV Niigata Network were also scheduled to run the marathon as part of their programs. Sapporo TV's What's New Cute will air a 50-minute show about Saipan, while TV Oita Broadcasting and BS Nippon Broadcasting will team on another production introducing Saipan to their viewers.

"We give a big thank you to all our sponsors and the community for coming together to make this year's marathon a safe and enjoyable one for the participants," said MVA community projects manager Martin Duenas. "We look forward to another great event in 2013."

EHIME

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on the pitch and were faster and more aggressive than the hosts to cruise to the easy win despite having only 11 players and no coach.

Ken Takiguchi anchored Ehime's offense with his five goals, while Takahiro Kondo and Mochiko Kimura added two and one, respectively.

Kondo got things going for the visitors when he attacked the right side of the box and was fouled by Brad Ruszala. The Japanese made the penalty kick to light up the scoreboard in the 23rd minute.

Takiguchi made it a 2-0 lead four minutes later when he canned his first goal from the center of the box against two CNMI defenders. Then two minutes before the first half ended, Takiguchi got his second goal to

give Ehime a 3-0 halftime lead. The visitors dominated possession in the first half, denying the CNMI scoring opportunities.

In the second half, Ehime continued to keep the ball on its side most of the time and though it made inaccurate passes, they were long ones and the visitors managed to chase the ball and create scoring chances. Ehime often attacked from the weak side (left wing), catching CNMI

defenders off guard.

Thirteen minutes into the second half, Takiguchi earned his third goal after CNMI goalie Johann Noetzel dove for the ball twice and failed to prevent Ehime from scoring. Ehime's play started with Kondo streaking from the left wing and kicking the ball. Noetzel then went to his right for a save, but the ball bounced off his hands and toward Takiguchi's side, who

went for the kick, while the CNMI keeper was still on the ground and scored.

Four minutes later, Ehime upped the lead to five when Kondo attacked from the right side and Noetzel decided to help out on defense and leave his post. Before Noetzel and his teammates collided with a driving Kondo, the Japanese had already made a shot and Raphael Zapanta was the last line on defense and failed to

kick the ball out.

Ehime scored three more goals in the remaining 28 minutes of the match with the sixth goal coming off a penalty shot from Takiguchi, who also made a header two minutes before the game ended. Kimura had the last say in the game when he broke away from the CNMI's defense and connected on a goal from the left side of the box against goalie Evan Hunsberger.

ENTICER

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(off-road), the rookie course will bring riders up right through Marianas Country Club, one million-gallon tank, left to the FEBC road, left down to Middle Road, and back to PauPau. For the run part, participants must turn right up the one million-gallon tank, turn around, and

head back to PauPau.

In the short course, after the million-gallon tank, bikers should turn right and head to Kimikaze Trail, turn left and take the paved road to Santati Trail, turn left at the junction (instead of turning right to Cowtown), and take the paved road back to PauPau. In the run leg, from PauPau runners must go all the way to the end of La Fiesta, turn right up to

the million-gallon tank, turn left and run along the trail in the opposite direction at the beginning of the bike course and back to PauPau.

For the full course, bike leg, after the Kimikaze Trail, bikers should cross the paved road en route to Autobahn, pedal through the trail and turn right to Grotto road, turn left and take the paved road to Santati Trail, turn left at the junction (instead of turning

right to Cowtown) and take the paved road back to PauPau. The run leg will be to the end of La Fiesta and then they must turn right up to the million-gallon tank, turn left and run along the coral road behind MCC course, turn left and head down hill at the FEBC road, and turn left to Middle Road to return to PauPau.

For the Tagaman bike and run legs (rookie course), bikers will pedal up to Banzai and back to

PauPau, while runners will go to as far as Marianas Resort and back to the start/finish line. In the short course, riders must go to Bird Island first before heading to Banzai and back to the finish line, while in the run leg, participants should go to FEBC sign before heading back to PauPau. In the full course, bikers must head to Bird Island, Grotto, and Banzai before returning at PauPau where they will start

the run leg, race up to the Last Command Post, and head back to the finish line.

This week's Enticer 3 is scheduled two weeks before the XTERRA Saipan Championship (March 24) kicks off. The Tagaman Triathlon will be next after XTERRA and is set for March 31. XTERRA and Tagaman course rides are scheduled for March 17 and 18, respectively. (Roselyn B. Monroyo)

MISO High School Girls Volleyball Finals

PHOTOS By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND



Saipan International School's Amber Roberts rears back for a spike against Grace Christian Academy in the finals of the Marianas Inter-Scholastic Sports Organization volleyball league last March 3 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



SIS' Amber Roberts, right, collides with GCA's Zena Demapan as they both go for a jump ball.



SIS' Amber Roberts and GCA's Zena Demapan both jump as the ball teeters above the net.



The SIS Lady Geckos get ready for the serve.



A GCA player tries to block a shot by SIS' Amber Roberts.



An SIS player spikes the ball over the defense.



SIS' Zoe Jewell jumps up to block a shot.



SIS' Amber Roberts lands an interview by KSPN's Bob Coldeen after the conclusion of the MISO finals.



Activity Schedule for March 8, 2012

8:00 AM to 12:00 PM: Morning practices

7:30 PM to 9:30 PM: Evening practices

2012 Tan Holdings Intercompany Basketball League

7:00 PM: POI/RMS vs. JP Center-TSL Plaza

9:00 PM: Fiesta Resort & Spa vs. Shirley's Coffee Shop



There are no scheduled games.





Source: Colts
expected to part
with Manning

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Saipan Tribune Sports

28 THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2012

Pistons
overcome Bryant,
beat Lakers
in OT, 88-85

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Nationals beef up roster for MBT

Marvin Rabauliman, seen here going for a layup for Mobil during their game against Pacific Islands Club in the Shirley's caging, will be suiting up for the CNMI Nationals in the 2012 Micronesian Basketball Tournament in Guam in July this year.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Four new players have been added to the roster of the CNMI Nationals who will be competing in the 2012 Micronesian Basketball Tournament in Guam in July this year.



The additions include scoring machine Ivan Devero, 3-point shooter Joshua Sablan, former MISO player Aitao Barcinas, and former Junior Nationals' Marvin Rabauliman. The rest of the CNMI Nationals are holdovers from the squad that represented the Commonwealth in the 2010 Micronesia

Games in Palau.

"We have 14 players on the team at this time. Most of them are from the Micro Games roster and the guys that won the GBL. Tim Quan is back on island after finishing his graduate school and will be playing for the team again," coach Rufino Aguon said.

Besides Quan, other returnees are Keoni Chariton, Quincy Johnson, Pete Iguel, Dan Barcinas, Jack Lizama, Pe-

ter Mendiola, and Joe Villacrusis.

"The final roster for the MBT will be determined by May or June leading into the games. But I do not see much changes since these guys have been playing and training together since we returned from the Micro Games," Aguon added.

Jose Tumaquip, Jeremy Winkfield, and Jericho Cruz played in Palau, but are
See NATIONALS on Page 26

Elementary student wins 10K race anew



Conatsu Kaga, right, battles mother Ayumi Kaga in a sprint to the finish line of last Saturday's 7th Saipan Marathon.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School student Conatsu Kaga notched back-to-back 10K victories in the girls U14 division during last Saturday's 7th Saipan Marathon.

The 8-year-old runner crossed the finish line at Micro Beach at the 56:26

mark, about seven minutes faster than her 2011 winning time (1:03:31).

Kaga was one of the three CNMI runners who topped their respective age group in the shortest race of the weekend. The other two age group winners in the women's 10K were Chiharu Sato (53:09/30 to 39 division) and Akane Imaaya (53:44/40 to 49). Rounding out the age group winners in the race that brought runners to as far as the Hakubotan turn (in Beach Road)

See ELEMENTARY on Page 26

Ehime completes sweep of exhibition games



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

CNMI and Ehime University players and coaching staff pose for a group photo after their exhibition game last Tuesday night at the Oleai Sports Complex.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Japan's Ehime University proved to be a tough nut to crack for the CNMI.

The visiting school's senior team swept its exhibition games here, cap-

ping it by defeating the CNMI Team, 8-0, last Tuesday night at the Oleai Sports Complex Field. Last week, Ehime's junior squad crushed the CNMI Team, 7-0, and a selection of players from various local clubs, 22-0.

Ehime's senior squad may not be as explosive as the junior team, but the former's players positioned themselves well

See EHIME on Page 26

Enticer 3 set for this Saturday



The last pre-XTERRA/Tagaman race will be held this Saturday at PauPau Beach.

Dubbed as Enticer 3, the triathlon race this time will have three courses for both XTERRA and Tagaman partic-

ipants. Registration starts at 6:30am for only \$5 and the race begins at 7:30am.

For the swim leg in the waters off PauPau Beach, participants in the rookie course will swim only one lap, two for short course, and three for full.

Then in the bike leg for XTERRA
See ENTICER on Page 26